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LETTERS
OF
RACHEL LADY RUSSELL.

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Rachel Lady Russell.

Longman & Co
1853

THE HISTORY OF
BEDFORD
AND WILTS.
VOL. II.



A. P. Rydbach.

John Pye.

Bedford House

Longman & Co
1853.

LETTERS

OF

Christened by her name

RACHEL LADY RUSSELL.

—“that sweet Saint who sate by Russell's side
Under the Judgment-seat.”—ROEMER.

TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN AND LONGMANS.

1853.

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LONDON: PRINTED BY WOODFALL AND KINDER,
ANGEL COURT, SKINNER STREET.

P R E F A C E.

A NEW edition of the "Letters of Lady Russell" is here presented to the world.

It is unnecessary to dilate on the merits of letters which have been long familiar to the public. Those merits are separate and distinctive; the letters are not letters of business connected with great political events; they are not letters of wit and humour written to show the talent of the writer; they are not, alas! the overflow of a heart at ease, playful and sparkling, or mingling with smooth flow in the current of the world. The "Letters of Lady Russell," as originally published, contain but one topic and one resource—that topic the judicial murder of her husband—that resource the strength of a soul sustained by all the fortitude of a heroine, and chastened by all the piety of a saint.

This edition will contain, besides the letters of that melancholy period, those of a time of wedded joy, few in number indeed, but valuable, as showing how deep was that happiness which the tyranny of a voluptuous king broke into and destroyed.

The valuable collection of letters of Lady Russell which had been preserved in the archives of Devonshire House, found a worthy editor in Miss Berry. It is not necessary to acquaint the reader with the merits of a lady so favourably known in the literary world, and so much regarded in the social circles which she long adorned. In her youth, her beauty and accomplishments induced Horace Walpole, then become Earl of Orford, to offer his hand; but her spirit was not mercenary, and while she retained a great esteem for her venerable correspondent, she declined to be the partner of his title and his fortune. In her maturer years Miss Berry became, from the cultivation of her taste, the soundness of her understanding, and the constancy of her friendships, the centre of attraction of a society limited in numbers, but distinguished by eminence in position, in literature, and in science. The Duke of Devonshire could not have made a better choice of an Editor. These Letters, edited by Miss Berry, appeared in 1819,¹ with a short Memoir of the Life of Lady Russell.

Several other letters, chiefly addressed to her daughter, Lady Granby, are added to this collection. There is likewise a very remarkable letter composed by Lady Russell, for the benefit of her children, and dated on the anniversary of Lord Russell's execution.

¹ In 4to. Two editions appeared in octavo, and, lastly, in "A Comparative View of Social Life of England and France," &c. 2 vols. 8vo. 1844.

The notes of Miss Berry, affixed to those letters of which she was the editor, have been retained. The other notes have been contributed by Mr. Martin, the Librarian of Woburn Abbey, who has likewise embellished this edition with several engravings, which are explained in a note.¹

The recent historical work of Mr. Macaulay, splendid and powerful as it is, does not appear to me to give a correct account of the conduct of Lord Russell in the memorable transactions which led to his trial and condemnation. This is not the place to enter into that inquiry; if it were, it would not be difficult to show, that while Lord Shaftesbury and some of his friends were urging on resistance, Lord Russell was opposed to any attempt of the kind. Lady Russell says truly he was guilty of misprision of treason at most. Lord Russell himself observed with emphasis on his trial, that a rebellion could not be made then as formerly, by a few great men. But he was conscious that tyranny could not be established in England without wading through his blood.

Lord Somers and the Whig statesmen of the Revolution declared that Lord Russell had been murdered, and posterity has ratified that declaration. Charles the Second and the Duke of York, in order to establish arbitrary power, and destroy the liberties of England, were guilty of that murder.

J. R.

December 1, 1853.

¹ Vol. ii. p. 225.

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¹ Lady Rachel preserved the name of her first husband for some time after her second marriage with Lord Russell, who was likewise at the time of the marriage, and until his brother's death, Mr. Russell.

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LETTERS
OF
RACHEL LADY RUSSELL.

LADY VAUGHAN TO ———.¹

YESTERDAY I said as you do, and a great many 1670. others did, it was a very dull time; but I change my note with the new day, being waked with a letter from my master; and I will tell you, I can find in one of them charms enough to make me good humoured all the day. One I read yesterday morning had not the same influence upon me; but I had too much upon all the company I saw that day, that it would have been, of a dull one, the pleasantest scene to an understanding party that could be imagined; but there was none but Noel could see into the millstone. But to the point; you must know that a great many in the town say Sid.² is married

¹ This letter is undated; and is from a copy in the MS. at Woburn Abbey. It is not known where the original is. There is little doubt it was written before her marriage with Lord Russell.

² Most probably the Honourable Henry Sidney, fourth son of Robert Earl of Leicester, and brother to Algernon Sydney. A letter to Lady Vaughan is given in Miss Berry's work, p. 267.

1670: to the Countess, and you must know too that some days past he did give a touch of some sentiments. I thought he would never have done to one of the ladies, you shall guess which; but I will personate her at this time whom he led by the hand, and after some impertinent questions, whether she would be at home, and when he said he had a favour to ask, but with so much disorder that she quickly suspecting said, he had made an ill choice to ask any favour, since she was never fortunate enough to do anybody a favour in all her life. He assured her it was now, and if she were not compassionate he was more unfortunate than ever any was. She desired not to hear of misfortunes she could not remedy, nor could not endure a secret if none but she must hear it, for that was desired, &c. Some more short questions and answers past; though they (as these perhaps to you) appeared long to her to whom the last sentence was that he hoped it was not so unreasonable to beg leave to tell her what he had to ask. She told him, no. She believed he understood himself and her too well to ask (what was) not fit to grant, and then he need not fear a denial. He said, dying men had ever liberty to speak their minds; nay, said she, now I understand you less than I did, being very dull at a mystery; so came to the coach; since this the coast was clear, no more words: but on Monday late at night a porter left a letter, which yesterday morning I read, and met in the afternoon a very melan-

choly gentleman in very strict mourning for his 1670. niece, both in habit and humour doleful. Mr. R—— was then at cards, who, I dare say, saw some resentment, not usual in two parties, and so did the whole observing part of the company; but no opportunity could she get to speak to the knight-errant till upon the stairs coming to the coach; the dialogue would be too tedious, considering all I have said already, but he concluded himself miserable, and she resolved in the case; so it rests, with a quiet night on both sides I believe. This I intended you a notice of, though I had not received your letter, which yet obliges me the more to do it; and here, my Lord, I could exceed the rapture of these passionate pretenders, in the sense I have of your obliging favours to me; but as I am sensible so I am grateful. So I beseech you, let that suffice, and my default in expressing do me no wrong in your thoughts. You bid me be positive, if I like; or not else to bring Mr. with you where we are. I will tell you what I meant to have done if you had not sent to me to know, that is, to (have) asked the favour you would not invite him; but if he comes of himself, let it fall out as fate designed it; and I sometimes think this may be enough still, for he says, though it be worse than death, if it displeases me extremely, he will never trouble me more; if so, it will not me to see him, so I would not rob you of your friend; nor any of you of the divertisement of an addition of good company. One week more I

1670. shall see how he proceeds here, and give my account. I have not seen Lord —— a great while. Some of his engaged friends tell me it is great respect makes the distance, which I am very well pleased, and care not how many observe his method of proceeding, by which you may believe upon what account soever. —— you give the title of friend to, went into the country; it was not disapproved by me, who could suffer his absence much oftener than he consents I should, say I what I will with observance of the esteem I desire to give one who expresses so much of me with the respect he does.

You prize the seeing us with so much kindness, as increases our pain we do it not every moment. I cannot tell you whether our business comes on nearer to us as your pen does, but I can that my
 > Lord North would make a swifter progress than that pleases upon the inclinations of persons that were less his humble servants than we are; but all arts are useless to make us more so. Mr. —— return from you will put a period to our expectation, we hope; and then we have liberty to do what I wish for more than any thing besides in the world, at this instant of time. I have not seen Sir Robert yet, but read your letter; so that I was directed how to interpret his ——, and continue my admiration of him beyond all imagination.¹

¹ Miss Berry, in her advertisement to the "Life of Lady Russell," 8vo. Lond. 1820, speaking of Lady Russell's letters says, "They will be found devoid of every ornament of style, and deficient in almost

LADY VAUGHAN¹ TO MR. WILLIAM RUSSELL.^{2 3}

London, May 16, 1672.

I WILL not endeavour to tell you what I suffer 1672.
by being parted from you, but beg of you that we
may meet again (God permitting) as soon as may be.
Things are here just as they were: no obstruction
removed by my sister⁴ being able to resolve, but

every particular that constitutes what are generally called entertaining letters. Their merit must arise entirely from a previous knowledge of the character and habits of their writer, and from the interest which the subsequent circumstances in which she was placed inspire. They are sometimes overcharged, sometimes confused with a repetition of trifling details, and sometimes the use of words antiquated in the signification here given to them adds to this confusion. Very inconsiderable alterations might have removed many of these difficulties, but from every alteration the Editor has carefully abstained. The value of the letters depends, not on their intrinsic excellence, but on the reader's previous acquaintance with that of their author." Miss Berry's notes to the letters reprinted from her work have been retained; for the others the present Editor is responsible.

¹ Lady Vaughan retained the name of her first husband Lord Vaughan, till Mr. Russell, by the death of his elder brother Francis Lord Russell in 1678, succeeded to his title.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

³ The marriage of Lady Vaughan with Lord Russell, then Mr. Russell, took place about the end of the year 1669.

⁴ Elizabeth Wriothesley, half-sister to Lady Russell. She had been first married to Jocelyn Percy, the last Earl of Northumberland, and then to the Honourable Ralph Montagu, son of Lord Montagu of Boughton, and afterwards himself Duke of Montagu. He was now ambassador in France, and it was to France that she was wanting to go. See mention made of this Lady and of Mr. Montagu, in a letter of Madame de la Fayette to Madame de Sévigné.—"Lettres de Madame de Sévigné," vol. ii. p. 340. Grouvelle's edition.

1672. will, I guess, to-morrow, for yesterday Sherwood wrote word the Duke¹ at farthest would be at Dover as this morning, then he was to ask for the boat, and the report she then receives, which will be to-morrow, being Friday, will certainly make her determine; but whatever that is, I desire you will allow me to come to you on Tuesday, unless you intend, as the coachman says you do, to be here on Monday. Your father says you promised him to come again. I cannot acquaint you with my sister's resolves till the Saturday's post, so cannot have your's, whatever we shall do till the Wednesday after, which, by your pardon, I must not stay for; so that unless I see you on Monday, I am of opinion you will see me at Stratton² on Tuesday or Wednesday. On Saturday you shall have more of my mind; but the coachman says he is appointed to be at Bagshot on Monday. I do all I can to put off going to Dover. My Lady Shrewsbury³ is returned from Dover, without more company than she carried with

¹ The Duke of York, then going to take the command of the fleet in the second Dutch war.

² The house and estate in Hampshire which Lady Russell had inherited from her father Lord Southampton, and where she and Lord Russell resided in the summer.

³ Anna Maria Brudenel, daughter of Robert Earl of Cardigan. This is the person whose husband, Francis Earl of Shrewsbury, was killed (1667) in a duel, by the Duke of Buckingham, when she was said to have held the Duke's horse in the disguise of a page. See Evelyn's account of meeting this lady at Newmarket the autumn before the date of this letter, on his return from Lord Arlington's at Euston, where the King was coming every day from Newmarket. "The Duke of Buckingham was now in mighty favour, and had with him that impudent woman the

her. Here was an alarm on Tuesday night by guns ¹⁶⁷². being heard. The cause was, seven of our ships, intending to go to join the Duke, found themselves just upon the Dutch fleet, upon which they retired; and the Dutch followed so close that the Castle shot upon the Dutch. There is difference in opinions about the fleets engaging; they say still a few days must now show it. Mrs. Laton and her she-friend, not your's, at least not your best (I praise God), were yesterday in every corner of your house, and without the house. She praised it, and seems to like it as well as you have done her. My Lady Newport¹ goes into Shropshire on Monday next come fortnight, so that she says she must defer her Stratton journey till another year. I am writing in my Sister Die's bed-chamber.² My Lord³ is just looking in, and bids me send you his affectionate remembrance, and hopes to see you on Saturday.

Countess of Shrewsbury, with his band of fiddlers," &c. "Evelyn's Diary," vol. i. p. 422.

It is she whom Pope mentions in the two well-known lines of his character of the Duke of Buckingham:—

"Gallant and gay in Cliefden's proud alcove,
The bower of wanton Shrewsbury and love."

The Duke of Buckingham was now a volunteer on board the Duke of York's fleet, to which circumstance, probably, Lady Russell's remark alludes.

¹ Lady Diana Russell, wife of Francis Lord Newport, afterwards created Earl of Bradford. She was daughter of Francis Earl of Bedford, and consequently aunt to Lord Russell.

² Lady Diana Russell, sister to Lord Russell, first married to Sir Greville Verney, and then to William Lord Allington.

³ William, fifth Earl, and first Duke of Bedford, father of Lord Russell.

1672. I shall be thought very long writing, for we are going abroad when I am done; but not for my diversion, I am sure you will believe, when, to do so, I must leave what I am now about, which yet I cannot till I have signed, with great truth,

Myself your's,

R. VAUGHAN.

LADY VAUGHAN TO MR. RUSSELL.¹

London, May 1672.

I AM very sure, my dearest Mr. Russell meant to oblige me extremely when he enjoined me to scribble to him by the post, as knowing he could not do a kinder thing than to let me see he designed not to think me impertinent in it; though we parted but this morning, which I might reasonably have doubted to have been, when I have passed all this long day and learned nothing new can entertain you and your good company. All I see either are or appear duller to me than when you are here; and I do not find the town is enlivened by the victory² we have obtained. There is no more talked of than you heard last night, nor nothing printed,

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² This was the bloody engagement in Solbay, of the 28th May, in which the Duke of York gained a dear-bought advantage over the Dutch fleet, commanded by De Ruyter. Lady Russell, we see, confirms what Burnet says of the supposed treachery of the French fleet, then acting as our ally.

because there is no letters come yet; Tom Howard, 1672. Lord Howard's son,¹ is expected every hour with them. Many whisper the French behaved themselves not like firm friends. The Duke of York's marriage is broke off.² That, or other causes, makes him look less in good humour than ordinary. They say she is offered the King of Spain; and our Prince shall have D'Elbœuf.³ Mrs. Ogle⁴ is to marry Craven Howard, Tom Howard's son;⁵ and Tom Wharton⁶ has another mistress in chase, my Lady Rochester's grandchild;⁷ but he is so unfortunate before the end, that it is mistrusted he may

¹ He succeeded to the title by his father's death this year, and is the same person who, under the name of Lord Howard of Escrick, was the principal evidence against Lord Russell in the Rye House plot.

² That with the Archduchess of Inspruck, afterwards married to the Emperor.

³ Charles de Lorraine Duc d'Elbœuf married Catherine Henriette, a daughter of Henri IV. and Gabrielle d'Estrees. It must be a daughter of theirs here mentioned as the intended wife of the Duke of York.

⁴ Mrs. Ogle (or, according to the language of the present day, Miss Ogle) was the daughter of Thomas Ogle, Esq., of Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire, and was Maid of Honour to Queen Catherine of Portugal.

⁵ Fourth son of the first Earl of Berkshire, see in Evelyn's "Diary," vol. i. p. 452, an account of a lawsuit Mr. Craven Howard had with his mother, which Evelyn believes to have been "by instigation doubtless of his wife, one Mrs. Ogle (an ancient maid), whom he had clandestinely married, and who brought him no fortune."

⁶ Son of Philip Lord Wharton, and afterwards created Earl of Wharton.

⁷ Elizabeth Wilmot, daughter of the profligate Lord Rochester. Neither of the persons here mentioned succeeded in their addresses; she married Edward Montagu, Earl of Sandwich. She is the same person who, in her widowhood, lived much at Paris, and is often mentioned in the correspondence of St. Evremond with Ninon de l'Enclos, who was frequently admitted to her society.

1672. miss her, though the grandmother is his great friend.

Young Arundel,¹ my Lord Arundel of Trerice his son, is extremely in love, and went down where she is, and watched her coming abroad to take the air, rode up to her coach. Mr. Wharton was on horse by the coach side. Arundel thrust him away, and looking into the coach, told her no man durst say he valued her at the rate he did. Mr. Wharton, like a good Christian turned the other cheek; for he took no notice of it; but the other having no opportunity to see or speak to her, was thus forced to return; but Wharton is admitted to the house. My cousin Spencer² is at Kimbolton still, so we may send thither time enough. My Lady Jane and Northumberland³ are waiting for an egg when I have done this, so that I scarce know what I say; yet I am loth to leave, and hope, how ill soever I express myself, you will still understand me to be entirely, as I ought,

Your's,

R. VAUGHAN.

My best service to your ladies. I hope they find no other inconveniences in their journey than what

¹ John, second Lord Arundel, twice married, first to Margaret, only daughter and heir of Sir John Ackland, of Colomb, co. Devon; secondly to Barbara, daughter of Sir Henry Slingsby, of Scriven, co. York, Bart. The title became extinct in 1768.

² The Honourable Robert Spencer, son of William Lord Spencer, of Wormleighton, by Penelope, daughter of Henry Earl of Southampton (father of the Lord Treasurer), and consequently cousin to Lady Russell.

³ Elizabeth Lady Northumberland, her half-sister.

the unfitness of the place to receive them is cause 1672.
of. My Lord Ormond was at the door to inquire
for you, so that I guess they are come from Hat-
field.

Saturday night.

LADY VAUGHAN TO MR. RUSSELL.

London, September 23, 1672.

If I were more fortunate in my expression, I
could do myself more right when I would own to
my dearest Mr. Russell what real and perfect hap-
piness I enjoy, from that kindness he allows me
every day to receive new marks of, such as, in spite
of the knowledge I have of my own wants, will not
suffer me to mistrust I want his love, though I do
merit, to so desirable a blessing; but, my best life,
you that know so well how to love and to oblige, make
my felicity entire, by believing my heart possessed
with all the gratitude, honour, and passionate affec-
tion to your person, any creature is capable of, or
can be obliged to; and this granted, what have I to
ask but a continuance (if God see fit) of these
present enjoyments? if not, a submission, without
murmur, to his most wise dispensations and unerring
providence; having a thankful heart for the years I
have been so perfectly contented in: He knows
best when we have had enough here; what I most
earnestly beg from his mercy is, that we both live so
as, which ever goes first, the other may not sorrow

1672. as for one of whom they have no hope. Then let us cheerfully expect to be together to a good old age; if not, let us not doubt but he will support us under what trial he will inflict upon us. These are necessary meditations sometimes, that we may not be surprised above our strength by a sudden accident, being unprepared. Excuse me, if I dwell too long upon it: it is from my opinion that if we can be prepared for all conditions, we can with the greater tranquillity enjoy the present, which I hope will be long; though when we change, it will be for the better, I trust, through the merits of Christ. Let us daily pray that it may be so, and then admit of no fears; death is the extremest evil against nature, it is true; let us overcome the immoderate fear of it, either to our friend or self, and then what light hearts may we live with? But I am immoderate in my length of this discourse, and consider this to be a letter. To take myself off, and alter the subject, I will tell you the news came on Sunday night to the Duke of York, that he was a married man; he was talking in the drawing-room, when the French ambassador¹ brought the letters in, and told the news; the Duke turned about and said, "Then I am a married man." It proved to be to the Princess of Modena; for it was rather expected to be Canaples'² niece; she is to have

¹ M. de Croissy, brother to Colbert.

² M. de Canaples was a younger brother of the Duc and of the Marechal de Crequi. His niece was the Duc de Crequi's daughter, whom

100,000 francs paid here; and now we may say she 1672. has more wit than ever woman had before; as much beauty, and greater youth than is necessary: he sent his daughter, Lady Mary,¹ word the same night, he had provided a playfellow for her. Mr. Neale, who interrupts me in this my most pleasant employment, tells me, my Lord Mulgrave² has the garter given him. The Duke of Monmouth³ goes this week, and more regiments, as they talk now. The Emperor has made a declaration, or remonstrance, how the French have made the first breaches, so forced him to war; that he has declared; but I do not find that the Swede joins yet with the French. The Lady Northumberland has met at Northumberland-house. After some propositions offered by my sister to the other,⁴ which were discoursed

Madame de Sévigné mentions as a probable match for the Duc de Lauzun, in a letter, vol. i. p. 102. Grouvelle's edit.

¹ Afterwards Princess of Orange and Queen of England. She was now eleven years old.

² John Sheffield, Earl of Mulgrave, afterwards created by Queen Anne, Duke of Buckingham.

³ To France. He was made the next year a lieutenant-general in the French service.

⁴ The elder Dowager Countess of Northumberland. She was daughter of the Earl of Suffolk here mentioned. "The child" in question was her grand-daughter, the Lady Elizabeth Percy, only child and heir of Jocelyn Percy, the last Earl of Northumberland, by the Lady Elizabeth Wriothesley (Lady Russell's sister), now married to Mr. Montagu. The Lady Elizabeth Percy was twice a widow before she was sixteen. She was thrice married, first 1679, before she was twelve years old to Henry Cavendish, Earl of Ogle, only son of the last Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle, who, dying the year after (1680), she was married *de jure* but not *de facto* in 1681, to Mr. Thynne, assassinated by Count Koningsmarck in

1672. first yesterday before my Lord Chancellor, between the elder Lady and Mr. Montagu, Lord Suffolk by; my sister offers to deliver up the child, upon condition she will promise, she shall have her on a visit for ten days or a month sometimes, and that she will enter into bonds not to marry the child without the mother's consent, nor till she is of years of consent; and, on her part, Mr. Montagu and she will enter into the same bonds, that when she is with them, or at no time, they will marry or contract, any marriage for her, without the grandmother's consent; but she was stout yesterday, and would not hear patiently; yet went to Northumberland-house, and gave my sister a visit. I hope for an accommodation. My sister urges, it is hard her child [that if she has no other children must be her heir] should be disposed of without her consent; and in my judgment it is hard; yet I fancy I am not very apt to be partial. If the weather be with you as it is with us, there never was a more dismal time for the country: it is happy you have some society besides hawks. I hope Friday will bring the chiefest desire in the world by your

R. VAUGHAN.

Pall-Mall (1682), and the same year she married Charles, the sixth Duke of Somerset. She is the person, of whose influence afterwards with Queen Anne (to whom she was first Lady of the Bedchamber), the Tories were so much afraid during Lord Oxford's administration. The unwarrantable and unprincipled manner in which she was abused by Swift in "The Windsor Prophecy," sufficiently excused her for having been the means of preventing the Queen ever allowing of his promotion in England. See "The Windsor Prophecy," Swift's Poetical Works.

My Lady Bellasys¹ is going to France for a consumption. 1672.

For Mr. William Russell, at Stratton House, to be left with the Postmaster at Alresford, Hampshire.

LADY VAUGHAN TO MR. RUSSELL.²

London, 1675.

THE few hours we have been parted seem too many to me, to let this first post-night pass, without giving my dear man a little talk, which must be an account how I have spent my time; for intelligence I have none, and my heart and thoughts are all known to Mr. Russell. Therefore, to return to my present design, I am to tell you, though I intended to dine where I am now, at Leicester-house,³ yet, your father coming to see our Miss,⁴ carried me to dinner to Bedford-house to eat Devonshire fish, and after wanting gamesters I must play one hour; but before I had done one quarter, Lord Suffolk⁵ came,

¹ Anne Brudenel, daughter of Lord Cardigan, and widow of John Lord Bellasyse, of Worlaby. This is the lady whom, Burnet says, the Duke of York wanted to marry. "She was a woman of much life and great vivacity, but of very small proportion of beauty." Burnet, vol. i. p. 353, folio edit. She afterwards married Charles, second Duke of Richmond.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

³ Leicester House was at this time inhabited by her sister, Lady Northumberland and Mr. Montagu, while Montagu House (now the British Museum) was building.

⁴ Their eldest child, Rachael, afterwards Duchess of Devonshire, born the preceding year.

⁵ Theophilus Howard, Earl of Suffolk. He was the father of the elder

1675. and I desired to resign to him, having won my Lord five pounds and myself thirty shillings; so I came to my sister, and found her in great trouble, the child seeming indeed to be very ill, and the Doctor directing a vomit, and whilst it was getting ready he went to see my Lady Jones's¹ children, and whilst he was there, her youngest boy died, played with him when he came in, and only flushed in his face and died instantly. My sister's girl is better to-day; our's fetched but one sleep last night, and was very good this morning. My Lord Stamford² left his wife this morning at four o'clock, and is gone to his uncle Grey. This Mr. Darcy³ told me this morning; but you will suppose I have not bettered my information since, being at this day at Leicester-house. The Lord Huntingtower⁴ is a better fortune than he was, by the death of the Lord Stanhope, 1500*l.* a-year coming to him. Mr. Grimes,⁵

Countess Dowager of Northumberland, by Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of George Earl of Dunbar in Scotland.

¹ Wife of Sir William Jones, made Attorney-general in January of this year. See Burnet's character of him, vol. ii. p. 150, 8vo. edit. ["Sir W. Jones was one of the most distinguished lawyers of his time, and of political principles leaning to the popular side; but he is represented by Bishop Burnet, who knew him well, to have been harsh and severe in his temper."—Phillips's "State Trials," vol. i. p. 471.]

² Henry Grey, first Earl of Stamford, married Anne, daughter and co-heiress of William, second Earl of Exeter.

³ The Honourable Conyers Darcy, eldest son of Lord Darcy and Conyers. He had married the widow of the Lord Treasurer Southampton, and was himself created Earl of Holderness, in 1682.

⁴ Lord Huntingtower was son (by her first marriage) of the Duchess of Lauderdale, who was Countess of Dysart in her own right.

⁵ Colonel James Graham, of Levens in Westmoreland. Of their pre-

that was at Wickham, was married yesterday to 1675.
Dol. Howard, the Maid of Honour. Madam Mazarin¹ is not arrived yet, but I hear Madam Tremblet

vions courtship we find the following account in Mr. Evelyn's Journal. After mentioning accompanying Mrs. Howard and her two daughters (of whom this lady was one) to Northampton on law business, he says:—"In this journey went part of the way Mr. James Graham (since Privy Purse to the Duke of York), a young gentleman exceedingly in love with Mrs. Dorothy Howard, one of the Maids of Honour in our company. I could not but pity them both, the mother not much favouring it. This lady was not only a great beauty, but a most virtuous excellent creature, and worthy to have been wife to the best of men. My advice was required, and I spoke to the advantage of the young gentleman, more out of pity, than that she deserved no better match, for though he was a gentleman of good family, yet there was great inequality."

¹ Hortensia Mancini, Duchesse de Mazarin, was the niece and heiress of Cardinal Mazarin. She was married to Charles Armand de la Porte de Meilleraye, eldest son of the Marechal de Meilleraye, and on his marriage took the name, arms, and title of Duc de Mazarin. Her eternal disputes with her husband, and the strange conduct of them both, filled the tribunals of France with their legal quarrels and demands on each other, and the ears of the idle of Europe with endless histories of their private life and adventures. See frequent mention of them in Madame de Sévigné's Letters.

Madame de Mazarin did not arrive in England till the 29th December this year, 1675. She was by birth cousin to the Duke of York's second wife (a Princess of Modena), whose mother — Martinuzzi was another niece of Cardinal Mazarin. This relationship with the Court procured her a distinguished reception here, and a pension of 4000*l.* a year from Charles II., which was continued to her successively by James and by William, until her death at Chelsea, in 1699. This pension, the sale of her jewels, and every other means of procuring money were so inadequate to her expensive habits, and her passion for play, that after having been the greatest heiress in Europe, she lived and died overwhelmed with debts. See the works of her admirer and friend, St. Evremond, who, after endeavouring in vain to reclaim her both by reason and by flattery, often supplied the wants of her extravagance from the savings of his economy. "Madame de Mazarin m'a du jusques à huit cens livres sterling : elle me devoit jusques à quatre cens guinées quand elle est morte." "Quand je

1675. is. My uncle¹ told Sir Harry Vernon² yesterday, he was *un des incurables*.

If you are not mightily delighted, I hope you will not stay the longest of your time from your

R. VAUGHAN.

The Doctor³ presents his services to you. He has been to see the child. No city news, he says; but the monied men likely to be undone again, all calling in their money, and they not able to pay it so suddenly.

Harry Saville⁴ is in a kind of disgrace with the Duke (*of York*). When the King dined at the Duke of Albemarle's, after dinner, the Duke, talk-

songe que la nièce et l'héritière de M. le Cardinal Mazarin, a eu besoin de moi en certains tems pour subsister, je fais des reflexions chrétiennes qui serviront à mon salut, si elles sont inutiles pour mon payment."—"Œuvres de St. Evremond," vol. iii. p. 291. See also her life written by herself at the end of the Abbé de St. Real's "Conspiracy de Venice."

[“Her face was beautiful with the rich beauty of the south, her understanding quick, her manners graceful, her rank exalted, her possessions immense; but her ungovernable passions had turned all these blessings into curses.”—Macaulay, vol. i. p. 430. Fenton, in his observations on Waller's "Triple Combat," informs us "that she was once thought a fit match for Charles; and that Henrietta Maria and Cardinal Mazarin had designed her for his Queen." The same author observes, that "she once had the greatest fortune of any lady in Europe."—Granger, vol. v. p. 403.]

¹ M. de Ruigny. He was now ambassador from France, but was superseded in the May following by M. de Courtin.

² Sir Harry Vernon was cousin to Lady Russell, her grandfather, Henry Earl of Southampton, having married Elizabeth Vernon, sister to Sir Richard Vernon, of Hodnet, in Shropshire.

³ Dr. Lower, a physician of eminence in the reign of Charles II.

⁴ Brother to the Marquis of Halifax.

ing to Saville, asked if he meant not to invite the 1675. King to the business of the day. Saville wondered what he meant. The Duke told him he need not; for sure it was his constant endeavour to get the King to drink more than any that wished him well would do. Saville denied it. "Then go away," replies the other; so he did. And the next day, the King reproaching him for not staying, he told the occasion; so there is great anger. I write in the nursery, and Lady Harvey¹ is just rushed by, and no sister at home; so I may be engaged, but I think not, for she is started back again, a perfect vision! I am going to see poor Lady Jones.

For Mas. William Russell, at Stratton, in Hampshire,
to be left with the postmaster at Alresford.

LADY VAUGHAN TO MR. RUSSELL.²

London, Feb. 10, 1675.

WHAT reputation writing this may give me, the chamber being full of ladies, I know not; but I am sure, to be ill in that heart (to whose person I send this) I dare not hazard; and since he expects a letter from me, by neglect I shall make no omission, and without doubt the performance of it is a plea-

¹ Sister to Ralph, the first Duke of Montagu, married to Sir Daniel Hervey, sent ambassador to the Porte in 1676. She is the person to whom La Fontaine's fable of "Le Renard Anglois" is addressed. See fable 23rd, book 12.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

1675. santer thing than I have had sense of, from the time we parted; and all acts of obedience must be so to my dearest man who, I trust in God, is well; but ill entertained, I fear, at Stratton, but what the good company repairs. The weather is here very ill, and the winds so high that I desire to hope you do not lie in our old chamber, being afraid when I think you do. Our little Fubs¹ is very well; made her usual court to her grandfather just now, who is a little melancholy for his horses; but they are all sent to take the air at Kensington, or somewhere out of town. My Lord's gelding is dead, and more saddle-horses, and one coach-horse, I think. I have asked every one I see for news, but all I can learn is, that Attorney Montague has done his best to be Chief Justice, but will fail; Winnington most spoke of;² some say Rainsford.³ Montague⁴ shall be a Judge, and so contented, if he please. My Lord Halifax⁵ continues ill still. My Lord Duras⁶ is not married yet; some speak of a stop in it. There is

¹ Their little daughter.

² Sir Francis Winnington was then Solicitor-general, having succeeded Sir William Jones in 1673.

³ Sir Richard Rainsford was made Chief Justice in April, 1676.

⁴ William Montague, Esq., was made a Baron of the Exchequer. All the law promotions here mentioned as probable, did not take place till the next year, 1676.

⁵ George Saville, Earl, and afterwards Marquis, of Halifax.

⁶ Louis de Duras, brother to the French Duc de Duras. He was naturalized and made Lord Duras by Charles II., in the year 1673. He married Mary, the eldest daughter of George Sondes, Earl of Feversham, and succeeded to that title according to the entail in right of his wife. See frequent mention made of him by St. Evremond.

no more news of the fleets. The King and Duke 1675. both professed, that if they could see a report from De Ruyter they should give a perfect credit to it, being sure he would write nothing but truth. There is such a buzz, I can so little tell what I say, that it is in vain to say more. My Lady Die sends a token of the Bill of Mortality, and Lady Shaftesbury¹ the Mercury. All this charge comes from my putting up the Gazette, the ladies would obligingly add. I am, my best love, more than I can tell you, and as much as I ought.

Your's,

R. VAUGHAN.

LADY NORTHUMBERLAND TO LADY RUSSELL.²

February 11, 1675.

I AM very sorry, my dear sister, Mr. Russell was not well after his journey, but I hope he will have no returns of his distemper; I thank God I am pretty well of my cold too, but going abroad does not yet agree with me; for being that day at my Lady Mary's, and the next to see the mock astrologer, I was so very ill that I was forced to keep my bed upon Sunday, and since have been in physick, which I hope will do me good. I do rejoice ex-

¹ Margaret Spencer, third wife of the first Earl of Shaftesbury, was daughter of William Lord Spencer of Wormleighton, by Penelope, daughter of Henry, Earl of Southampton (father of the Lord Treasurer), and was consequently cousin to Lady Russell.

² From a copy of the original, in the MSS. Woburn Abbey.

1675. tremely at Miss Rachel's breeding her teeth so well, and that she begins to talk. I confess I long to see her now she grows so good company. My Miss Ann, I thank God, thrives very well too, and my other girl mighty well,¹ and kept her birth-day here, where you were wished for; but it did not pass so well as the last she kept with me; for, most unfortunately, we were disappointed of our gamesters, and play being the only thing can engage her grandmother to stay abroad past her hour; failing of that she carried her home, at seven o'clock, which was a great disappointment, having some of her young company and fiddles; but my Lady is grown such a spark, that these two nights she has sat up till twelve and one o'clock at play herself; and last night, when she went away, made an appointment to have my Lord Suffolk and my Lord Scarsdall meet her here to-day at dinner; but all this while she cannot endure it. My Lady Devonshire was yesterday carried out of town in great State, and old Sir Charles rode and carried one of her banners. She was carried through Holborn up as far as Fisher's Folly, and then back again, down through the Strand, and up Covent Garden, and through Queen Street, and so out of town.

My Lord Mordante carried his trial clear against his brother. Yesterday, my Lord Mayor and Miss Wide appeared at Westminster Hall, where, as I am told, she said she was not married, nor kept by

¹ Lady Ogle.

force ; but that she chose him for her guardian ; 1675. but they say the young man said he had married her and bedded her, and that he would prove : all the other news we sent by Mr. Russell. They say now the Parliament does not sit till October ; so that I have now no hopes of seeing you : My service pray to your good man, Mr. Montague is a humble servant to you both. If our house went up as fast as we have models made, we should be in it before you get to yours, for we have no less than three that are big enough for Miss Ann to walk in. I long till the writings are done, that it may be begun ; proposing the spending of many a pleasant hour in it. Orange Nan is now by me, and says she had last week of Dukes, Lords, and Counts, ten at dinner with her ; to season the cestern my Lord Middlesex left her. After this piece of intelligence, I think I ought to add no more, therefore shall conclude,

I am yours, with all passion, E. N.

LADY VAUGHAN TO MR. RUSSELL.¹

London, February 11, 1675.

EVERY new promise of Mr. Russell's unalterable kindness is a most unspeakable delight to my thoughts ; therefore I need use no more words to tell you how welcome your letter was to me ; but

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

1675. how much welcomer Monday will be, I hope you do imagine. Your father sent me the inclosed, but says withal, that the news at Court from France this morning was, Messina was relieved. For weddings and deaths, and that sort of news, I know not the least. Her Grace of Cleveland¹ has set the day for France to be within ten days. The Duchess of Portsmouth² is melancholy, as some persons will have it, and with reason. You will easily conclude your sister Allington is so, when I tell you her boy has the measles; he had a cough two or three days,

¹ Barbara Villiers, daughter and heiress of William Villiers, Viscount Grandison, who fell in the royal cause at the battle of Edgehill. She was born about the year 1642, and was married the year before the Restoration to Roger Palmer, then a student in the Temple, afterwards created Earl of Castlemaine, by which title she was known till the year 1670, when she was created by Charles II. Duchess of Cleveland. She had three sons by the King, whom he successively created Dukes of Cleveland, of Grafton, and of Northumberland, and one daughter born in the first year of her marriage, who bore the name of Palmer, with the farther dubious designation of *adopted daughter* of the King. She married, at fourteen, Thomas Lennard, Earl of Sussex.

² Louisa de Querouaille, the daughter of a noble family in Brittany, was an attendant on Henrietta, Duchess of Orleans, when she visited England, and was met by the King, her brother, at Dover in 1672. The charms of this lady were supposed to have been purposely thrown in the way of the King, to attach him more effectually to the interests of France. The plan succeeded, and she shortly after became the reigning mistress, and was created Duchess of Portsmouth. In "Evelyn's Diary," are some curious details of a visit he made to Lord Arlington at Euston in 1673, when Mademoiselle de Querouaille was amongst the guests. In the same entertaining Diary we find mention made of a visit Mr. Evelyn received from a Mr. and Madame de Querouaille, relations of the Duchess of Portsmouth's, who were in England in the year 1675. They had been much known to his father-in-law, Sir Richard Browne, during his residence in Brittany. See "Diary," vol. i. p. 449.

but was so well, she was with him in the Park last 1675. night, and this morning the measles appeared; but I hear nothing but he is very well with them; the doctor sees no ill symptom at all. Our girl is as you left her: I bless the mercy of God for it. I have silently retired to my little dressing-room for this performance, the next being full of company at cards. The Lady Pultney one, introduced by Lady Southampton.² I am engaged with Northumberland;³ but at nothing, nor to nothing upon earth entirely, but to my dear Mr. Russell; his I am with most passionate affection.

R. VAUGHAN.

I am a humble servant to all your company.

LADY VAUGHAN TO LORD RUSSELL.⁴

March 23, 1675.

THOUGH it is very hard to receive so kind a letter as I read yesterday, and not tell you the joy I take in reading it, yet I have made my Lady Shaftesbury

¹ Arabella, daughter of George, Earl of Berkeley, second wife to Sir William Pulteney, Knight, of Misterton, in Leicestershire.

² Frances, daughter of William Seymour, Duke of Somerset, and widow of Viscount Molineux, when she married the Lord Treasurer Southampton (Lady Russell's father), to whom she was third wife. She long survived him, and afterwards married Conyers d'Arcy, the first Earl of Holderness.

³ Lady Northumberland, her sister.

⁴ From a copy in the MSS., Woburn Abbey.

1675. the compliment; but she returned it as I desired, and obliges me to this moment of pleasure, and sure these are very great ones, in my love's absence, to sit and read what he has written, but that is apt to make me contemplate to fix at this instant when to return Lady Shaftesbury's kindness. I must put myself from this employment, and you light upon expressions which are very apt to fill one full of thoughts, therefore I take up the dear paper, and present my duty to my Lord; tell you our girl is very well, and very pretty; says Papa is waking for a cherry.

R. VAUGHAN.

There was a muster in the Park for the Prince Mecklenburg to-day. Mr. Saville¹ has been insolent in his tongue to the Duke, and is for it banished the Court: the words are too many to write. Mr. Gar-rad is fled; he is to be tried by the Green Cloth, and the Lord by his Peers.

For Mr. William Russell, at Woburn, Bedfordshire,
to be left at Brick Hill

LADY VAUGHAN TO LORD RUSSELL.²

August 15, 1675.

THOUGH I did wish my best life would not give himself the trouble of writing to me so soon, yet I

¹ The Hon. Henry Saville.

² This and the three following are from copies in the MSS. at Woburn Abbey. The originals are most probably among the Devonshire MSS.

desire he will believe there is no earthly thing can¹⁶⁷⁵. please me so well as what he says to me; so that when I cannot hear him speak, his letters are my best delight; though I am with our little girl, who is (I bless God) very well, and extremely merry, and often calls Papa. She gets new pretty tricks every day. My Sister¹ liked the plovers very well, and so did I, for I eat of all to-day, not drinking the waters, nor do not mean to drink them to-morrow. We look for no new company on Tuesday, as we did when you went. I think it is very well as it is. I find by John's letter, you found half a pair of stairs at Southampton House, which I was glad of, that all faults may be amended now, if any be found. I write by the carrier, because that post is so naughty, and it is the same thing, for this goes but to-morrow morning, and if anything happens you should hear, I will write again on Monday night, or Tuesday morning, otherwise not. I hope I shall hear you got well to London by John to-morrow, if the post please to deliver it, for yesterday I had those were wrote on Tuesday, and this morning those on Thursday. I am going to see Miss end her supper, and then undress, at which time she is very pleasant; and it is my best entertainment till I see again my Mr. Russell, whose I am entirely.

R. VAUGHAN.

¹ Probably the Lady Margaret Russell, sister to Lord Russell, who afterwards married her cousin, Edward Russell, Earl of Orford.

1675. I am glad poor Die¹ is well again. Remember to write to Lady Allington. Pray mind to look what kind of garret it is where the chimney is new made.

For Mr. Russell at Woburn.

LADY VAUGHAN TO MR. RUSSELL.

1675.

PERSUADING myself to believe you were not willing to dispense with not hearing to-day from your little girl and I, I think myself obliged to tell you we are both as you left us. I have just left her (to tell her dear papa so) in as good humour as she used to be when her breakfast is before her; but while it was a getting ready very impatient; nothing would do without the help of a piece of bread and butter. I have yet passed my time well enough since we parted; all I have done seeming to be in order to our meeting soon again; but some interruption I had about four o'clock yesterday, by the noise of a coach, which proved to be my Lady Stuckley.² I had the satisfaction by it of seeing the new well, for going down with her, the evening was so fine, I walked to it; it is thatched all, and the

¹ Diana, sister to Lord Russell, first married to Sir Greville Verney, afterwards to William, second Lord Allington, created an English peer by Charles II., by the title of Baron Allington of Wymondley, co. Hertf. Died in 1684.

² Most probably Catherine, daughter and heir of Sir John Trott, of Laverstoke, co. Southampton, Bart., first wife of Sir Hugh Stukeley, of Hinton, co. Hants, Bart.

foundation laid to the turning ; they were just turn- 1675.
ing it as I looked on them, and this day will not
hurt it, for it is the most glorious one that is to be
imagined ; the sun is so hot as I write, it supplies
the want of sand as well as fire could do. The pears
are not gathered till to-morrow morning. I do long
to hear of my best life, but not so much as I shall
do ten days hence, whether I am at Stratton, or
nearer to you.

Watkins¹ calls for my letter, yet I must tell you
I hate myself for forgetting your girls, and am
more and more convinced how little I deserve the
blessing I enjoy, but will ever be thankful to my
God and yourself, whose I am entirely.

R. VAUGHAN.

Sunday morning.

For William Russell, at Southampton House, London.

LADY VAUGHAN TO LORD RUSSELL.

1675.

WHAT I have to write, and the time I have to
write it in, are very agreeing, having extreme little
of both at my command ; for words never any crea-
ture had so few, that had so much to express as I
have to Master Russell, and my time is what Lady
South: takes to sup in, this day being hers, and I am
to see our girl above, whom I have not seen un-
dressed since you went. She is as you left her, that
is I hope so ; for I dispatched my letter before the

¹ The House Steward.

1675. visit, lest her charms should be so powerful and so keep me too long; yet from such a dispatch it would not hurt any.

Madam Tremblet is safe arrived, and so are our things I hope, for I have not opened them yet; nor if I can choose will not; but if I should see them first, they would not be pleased, for yesterday I was there, and they wondered extremely to hear I had not curiosity to see so fine things: she had some fancy in them it seems. I spoke for the note, the weather is so ill; I hope to see you soon. Mrs. Strangwich is dead; Mrs. Capel that was: not having been abroad to day, I know nothing of the world. Yesterday I played at Whitehall, Duchess Hamilton¹ kissed the Queen's hand; the Queen rose from cards to do it; my sister's girl is ill again.

I am eternally yours,

R. VAUGHAN.

Saturday night, 8 o'clock.

For Mas. William Russell, at Stratton, in Hampshire.

LADY VAUGHAN TO MR. RUSSELL.²

Tichfield, August 22, 1675.

Sunday night.

I WRITE this to my dear Mr. Russell, because I love to be busied in either speaking of him or

¹ Anne, Duchess of Hamilton, in her own right, eldest daughter of James Duke of Hamilton. She married William Earl of Selkirk, who, on her decease, was created Duke of Hamilton, in 1661.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

to him ; but the pretence I take is lest that I wrote 1675. yesterday should miscarry ; so this may again inform you at London, that your coach shall be at Harford Bridge (if God permit) upon Thursday night, to wait your coming ; and on Saturday I hope to be at Stratton, and my sister¹ also. This day she resolved it, so her coach will bring us all, as I think to contrive it, or at least with the help of the chariot and cart-horses ; but I think to send you the coach, to save sending six horses for it, for a pair will bring the chariot. It is an inexpressible joy to consider, I shall see the person in the world I most and only long to be with, before another week is past ; I should condemn my sense of this expected happiness as weak and pitiful, if I could tell it you. No, my best life, I can say little, but think all you can, and you cannot think much : my heart makes it all good. I perfectly know my infinite obligations to Mr. Russell ; and in it is the delight of her life, who is as much yours as you desire she should be.

R. VAUGHAN.

Miss is very well. I drink the waters yet, and intend it till I go, if the weather holds so good.

For Mr. Russell, at Southampton House.

¹ The Lady Elizabeth Noel, eldest daughter of the Lord Treasurer Southampton, married to Edward, eldest son of Lord Noel, afterwards Earl of Gainsborough.

LADY VAUGHAN TO MR. RUSSELL.¹

London, April, 1677.

1677. I CANNOT neglect so great a pleasure to myself as writing to Mr. Russell is, yet have nothing to tell him, but how I have passed my time since I saw him yesterday: it was with your two sisters² at a Dutch Woman's,³ Paternoster-row, and the three Exchanges.⁴ This day I dined at the Tower,⁵ but there is no news: the Lords have no answer

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² Lady Allington and Lady Margaret Russell.

³ This was probably what was called an India-house, a warehouse where tea, china, and other Indian goods were then only to be purchased. It was the shopping of the fine ladies of those days; it afterwards became so much the fashion with the young and gay, that other motives than "to cheapen tea, or buy a screen,"* were imputed to the visits to India-houses. King William's severity reprehended Queen Mary for having been persuaded to go to one; and Cibber makes Lady Townley "take a flying jaunt to an India-house," as one of the most dashing gaieties of a fine lady's London life.

⁴ The three Exchanges were Exeter, the New Exchange, and the Royal Exchange.

⁵ Probably with Lord Shaftesbury, who had been sent to the Tower in February, 1676, with the Duke of Buckingham, Lord Salisbury, and Lord Wharton, for having asserted that Parliament was legally dissolved by a prorogation of more than a year. The three last were shortly after liberated, but Lord Shaftesbury remained in confinement above a twelve-month. ["after thirteen months' confinement. But not till he had begged pardon on his knees at the Bar of the Lords, as well for his fault as his obstinacy in not acknowledging it."—Rapin.]

* "To cheapen tea, or buy a screen,
What else could so much virtue mean?"

PRIOR.

of their petition. Mr. Shepherd¹ has not been¹⁶⁷⁷. heard from; Charlton² came in: he says the King told Mr. Shepherd he came post, but his answer would not be so hasty; nothing will be done in it, it is thought. Wharton is commanded to Woburn, and goes to-morrow, Crequi³ was over-turned just going into Newmarket. The King comes on Saturday or Tuesday: the Queen is ill,

¹ Mr. Shepherd * was an upper servant, out of livery, of Lord Shaftesbury's, or his gentleman, as they were then called, and, indeed, as they often were by birth, although serving in a menial capacity in great families. See "*Rawleigh Redivivus*," or the "*Life and Death of Anthony late Earl of Shaftesbury*," p. 55.

Butler, the author of "*Hudibras*," was designated in the same manner in the family of the Countess of Kent. "She gave her gentleman twenty pounds a-year. He (Butler) lived some years in her family." See "*Letters by Eminent Persons from the Bodleian Library*," vol. ii. p. 260.

² Perhaps son of Sir Job Charlton, who was Speaker of the House of Commons in 1673.

³ Marshal Crequi. His defeat by the Austrians at Consaarbruck in 1675, and its supposed effect on the Court of Charles II., is thus mentioned by Lord Russell in one of the few letters to his wife, still extant:—"I sent you, in my last, the news of Crequi's defeat, which proves very true, and is owned by M. de Ruigny: it is a thing of vast consequence at this conjuncture of time, and will, as it is thought, unavoidably occasion the total ruin of their army about Strasburg, for all the victory mentioned in the '*Gazette*,' which is so ridiculously penned, that everybody laughs at it, and wonders how so silly a thing could be ordered to be printed. They say that not only the Bretons continue up, but that in the Lower Normandy there is a rising too, and if so, nobody knows how far it may go. . . . These late disasters of the French have caused great people to shed tears at Windsor."

"August 10, 1675."

* Perhaps a relation to Mr. Shepherd, the wine-merchant, at whose house the fatal meeting took place; which, misrepresented, conducted Lord Russell to the scaffold.

1677. and much affected with the blazing star. There is a huge whale come up to Chatham, 52 feet long. Having no better entertainment than you find, I think it as well for me to make an end, and wait upon Lady Shaftesbury, who means to sup with me. I am most obedient to my Lord and Mr. William Russell, both,

R. VAUGHAN.

Tuesday, 8 o'clock. Our girls¹ are well.

For Mr. William Russell, at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire,
to be left at Brick Hill.

LADY VAUGHAN TO MR. RUSSELL.²

London, April 12, 1677.

I HAVE stayed till past eight, that I might have as much intelligence as I knew how to get. Spencer³ promised to be here this evening, but I find him not in my chamber, where I expected him at my coming home; for I have spent the afternoon with my sister Allington, and by all our travels could not improve my knowledge as I extremely desired to do, that I might entertain your dear self the better by this letter; else could have been content to be to-morrow morning as ignorant as I was this; for all my ends and designs in this world are to

¹ Their second daughter, Katherine, afterwards Duchess of Rutland, was born in August of the preceding year.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

³ The Honourable Robert Spencer, her cousin.

be as useful and acceptable to my Mr. Russell as 1677. I can, to deserve better, if I could, that dear and real kindness I faithfully believe his goodness suffers me to enjoy. My cousin Spencer is just come. The inclosed paper I copied from one Lord Allington gave me last night: it is the King's message to the House¹ yesterday. This day the debate held till 4 o'clock; and the result of it is, you have ordered a second address to thank his Majesty for taking into consideration your first,² and to desire he would, if he please, pursue what in that they desired; and that they might not be wanting, they have added a clause (if the King accepts of it) to the money bill, that gives him credit to use two hundred thousand of that money towards new alliances; promising, if he do see cause to lay it out, to replace it him again. This, as Sir Hugh Cholmondeley³ says, it is not pleasing at Court: expectations were much higher. The Lords have not agreed with the Commons: they desire to have it put in the bill, they should receive an account as well as the Commons. The House was in the way of agreeing, and the Speaker pressed it; till, after

¹The 11th of April, 1677.

² The first address was for entering into an alliance with Holland against France for the preservation of the Netherlands. The second address to the same purpose was presented on the 25th of May following; it drew down a sharp reprimand from the King, for prescribing what alliances he was to make, and produced an adjournment of the house.

³ Sir Hugh Cholmeley, of Whitby in Yorkshire. [A narrative of his sufferings during the civil wars was privately printed in 1787. 4to.]

1677. three hours' debate, he told them suddenly he had mistook the thing, that he knew the House nice upon money matters, and the Lords had only a negative in money concerns; and this seemed an affirmative, so put it to the question; but would not divide the House, though if they had, the ayes would have carried it, it is believed. To-morrow, at two, is a conference with the Lords. The Queen is so ill she could not perform the Maunday this day, but the Lady Fingale did it. The Lady Arlington's brothers are neither of them killed.¹ The Lady Mohun has a son:² he is ill; everything else as you left it. Your girls very well. Miss Rachel has prattled a long story; but Watkins³ calls for my letter, so I must omit it. She says, papa has sent for her to Wobee, and then she gallops and says she has been there, and a great deal more; but boiled oysters call, so my story must rest. She will send no duty she is positive in it. I present you all any creature can pay: I owe you as much.

R. VAUGHAN.

¹ Lady Arlington was Isabella de Beverwaert, daughter of Lewis of Nassau, and grand-daughter of Maurice, Prince of Orange. Thomas, Earl of Ossory (son of the Duke of Ormond), married a sister of Lady Arlington's, and another sister unmarried, and called Lady Charlotte Beverwaert, was a lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Anne. See frequent mention made of her in St. Evremond's works, under the name of Made-moiselle, as an intimate associate of Madame de Mazarin.

² He was killed in a duel in Hyde Park with the Duke of Hamilton, in 1712, which proved fatal to both the combatants.

³ The house-steward.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

March 1677-8.

My sister² being here tells me she overheard 1677-8. you tell her Lord last night, that you would take notice of the business (you know what I mean) in the House:³ this alarms me, and I do earnestly beg of you to tell me truly if you have or mean to do it. If you do, I am most assured you will repent it. I beg once more to know the truth. It is more pain to be in doubt, and to your sister too; and if I have any interest, I

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

This is on half a sheet of paper, and folded as a note. The date at the bottom is in the handwriting of Lord Russell.

² Lady Allington.

³ On the 14th of March of this year, the House of Commons had resolved itself into a committee of the whole House to consider the state of the nation. The motion for this committee was made by Lord Russell in the following words:—"I move that we may go into a committee of the whole House to consider of the sad and deplorable condition we are in, and the apprehensions we are under of popery and a standing army, and that we may consider of some way to save ourselves from ruin." *

Sir John Reresby mentions the great exertions made by the Court to resist these proceedings. It is probable that this note was meant to dissuade Lord Russell from making this motion, or perhaps from some other of a stronger nature on the same subject, in which she was successful. Lord Russell having kept this note, and endorsed it, with the time at which it came to his hands, proves the strong impression which some circumstance about it had made on his mind.

* See the "New Parliamentary Register," vol. iv. p. 951.

1678. use it to beg your silence in this case, at least to-day.

R. RUSSELL.

While the House was sitting.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.

Tunbridge Wells, 1678.

AFTER a toilsome day, there is some refreshment to be telling our story to our best friends. I have seen your girl well laid in bed, and ourselves have made our suppers upon biscuits, a bottle of white wine, and another of beer, mingled my uncle's whey, with nutmeg and sugar. None are disposing to bed, not so much as complaining of weariness. Beds and things are all very well here: our want is, yourself and good weather. But now I have told you our present condition: to say a little of the past, — I do really think, if I could have imagined the illness of the journey, it would have discouraged me: it is not to be expressed how bad the way is from Sevenoaks; but our horses did exceeding well, and Spencer, very diligent, often off his horse, to lay hold of the coach. I have not much more to say this night: I hope the quilt is remembered; and Frances must remember to send more biscuits, either when you come, or soon after. I long to hear from you, my dearest soul, and truly think your absence already an age. I

have no mind to my gold plate : here is no table ¹⁶⁷⁸.
 to set it on ; but if that does not come, I desire
 you would bid Betty Foster¹ send the silver glass
 I use every day. In discretion I haste to bed,
 longing for Monday, I assure you. From your
 R. RUSSELL.

Past ten o'clock.

Lady Margaret² says we are not glutted with
 company yet : you will let Northumberland³ know
 we are well ; and Allie.⁴

For the Lord Russell.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.⁵

London, January 1, 1679.

Tuesday, midnight.

I BEG thy leave, my only dear, by the way of
 refreshment, to tell you how I have spent the day :
 — I ate pudding with the girls, and then went
 and ate porridge and partridge with my sister ;
 then sent for both misses to make their visit, dis-
 patched them home, so proceeded to the work of
 the day ; made a dozen visits, and concluded at
 Whitehall. I learnt nothing there, but that the
 Queen had cried heartily : her eyes made it very
 visible,⁶ yet she was very lively. She was at cards

¹ A housemaid.

² Lady Margaret Russell.

³ The Countess of Northumberland, Lady Russell's sister.

⁴ Lady Allington.

⁵ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

⁶ The nation was now involved in the disgraceful delusions of the

1679. with Lady Sunderland¹ and Lady Betty Felton.² Lord Ossory³ was there: he came on Saturday. I am told Sir William Temple will be the other Secretary, though some would have (but cannot compass it) Mr. Hyde:⁴ so Mr. Montagu told me at dinner. He had met Lord Aylesbury: he told him he came through Bedfordshire, and the two Lords⁵ he heard would be chosen. My Lord

popish plot. Oates and Bedloe had denounced the Queen as accessory to it, not six weeks before the date of this letter. A very sufficient reason for the state in which Lady Russell mentions having seen her. ["Oates grew so presumptuous, as to accuse the Queen of intending to poison the King, which certainly that pious and virtuous lady abhorred the thoughts of, and Oates and his circumstances made it utterly unlikely in my opinion."—"Evelyn's Diary," vol. i. p. 515.]

¹ Anne Digby, daughter of George Earl of Bristol, and wife of Robert Earl of Sunderland, the son of Sacharissa. See frequent mention made of this lady in "Evelyn's Diary."

² Lady Betty Felton was a daughter of James Earl of Suffolk, married to Thomas Felton, Esq., Page of Honour to Charles II., and afterwards Sir Thomas Felton.

³ Thomas Earl of Ossory, the accomplished son of the first Duke of Ormond, whose much-lamented death the following year extorted from his father the touching boast, that he would *rather have his dead son, than any living son in England*. He had been named Governor and General of the forces going to Tangiers to repair the losses sustained in a late attack from the Moors. But the best of the troops destined for this expedition having been afterwards withdrawn from his command, he seems to have anticipated the sacrifice of himself or his honour, in being sent with such an incompetent force. See an affecting account of his death, and the previous state of his mind, in "Evelyn's Diary," vol. i. p. 488.

⁴ Lawrence Hyde, second son of the Lord Chancellor Clarendon, afterwards Earl of Rochester. It was Sir Leoline Jenkins who was made Secretary of State on this occasion, and neither of the persons Lady Russell mentions.

⁵ Lord Russell and Lord Bruce, eldest son of the Earl of Aylesbury. Montagu had been member for the county of Bedford in the preceding

Aylesbury answered, he could not tell : they had 1679. taken a prejudice to his son, upon ill offices done him in the county ; and all was for two votes, and they were but votes of civility. When I began, if I had remembered this would come the day you were going to the election indeed, when gone, I had been so much sooner in bed. Farewell for a while, my best life.

R. RUSSELL.

Williamson¹ is married to Lady Catherine.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.²

London, January 4, 1679.

It is now between eleven and twelve o'clock ; an hour, I guess, you are in full employment, and I at the most delightful I can choose, considering

Parliament ; but was not now re-chosen with Lord Russell, whose colleague, in 1679, was Sir Humphrey Monnoux, Bart. The baronetcy became extinct in 1814. Lord Bruce is the same person who afterwards, as Earl of Aylesbury, was suspected of being an agent in the plots against King William. He retired to Brussels, where he established himself, and where he died in 1722.

¹ Sir Joseph Williamson. He had been Secretary of State in the year 1673. See an account of his birth and rise in public affairs, under the protection of Lord Arlington in "Evelyn's Diary," vol. i. p. 442. He married Lady Catherine Obryen, widow of the Lord Obryen. She was sister to Charles Stuart, Duke of Richmond, the husband of *La belle Stuart* of the "Memoirs of Grammont," by whom he had no children, so that his sister was his heir.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

1679. my present circumstances. If yours be not so easy to-day,¹ to-morrow, I hope, will make some amends; and by this day se'nnight, the remembrance of the toil past, and the expectation of the enjoyments at sweet Stratton, will recompense all. Your father sent me two letters to read this morning; one was Tom Gregory's,² the other Lord Bolingbroke's³ to him, with mighty compliments to you in it. Poor Lord Aylesbury had a doleful face yesterday,⁴ Lady Mary⁵ told me. Since Tuesday night I heard nothing, but I will try this afternoon, add what I can get, but I would begin lest my time should be short in the evening. Mr. Montagu had a letter yesterday from the council-board to be there at his leisure, to see his cabinets opened; so to-morrow he goes.⁶ I have sent you my sister's (Lady Northumberland) letter to read: the poor man is delivered out of a peck of troubles, one may perceive. I would not end this epistle till

¹ The day of the election for Bedfordshire.

² A servant.

³ Oliver St. John, Earl of Bolingbroke. The earldom became extinct in the person of Paulet St. John, his brother, who died unmarried in 1711.

⁴ On account of his son's failure at the Bedfordshire election.

⁵ Lady Mary Bruce, his daughter, afterwards married to Sir William Walter, Bart.

⁶ Mr. Montagu's papers were searched by an order of council for his transactions, while ambassador in France, with the Lord Treasurer Danby, relative to the secret treaty. See Burnet's account of this affair, vol. ii. p. 217. [Mr. Macaulay says, — "Ralph Montagu, a faithless and shameless man, who had resided in France as Minister from England." — "History," v. i. p. 232.]

I had coasted the town for news, but I met none ¹⁶⁷⁹. at home to furnish me with any; and being now at Montagu House, find as little there. Sir Robert¹ is in discontent to-day; and swears if he knew as much as he does to-day a fortnight ago, he would have been a parliament man, whatever it had cost him: he is out of favour, he says. Sir William Temple, it is believed, will be the other Secretary, and not Mr. Hyde. To give you all reports, my Lord Bath,² they say, is to be treasurer; and some other remove, I heard, as not unlikely, but have forgot it; and here is such a buzz at cards, and with the child, that I can remember none; and, to help, Mr. Stukely has come in. Your sister³ is well, but I hear nothing of sister Alinton; their porter has been missed a week; they have changed the lock, and I hope take care; I send to them to know if they take care to watch, but I get no good answer; you know my concern. They will let me say no more; our girls are very well and good. I am, my Lord Russell's creature entirely.

R. RUSSELL.

Thursday night.

¹ Probably Sir Robert Worsley, Bart., of Pilewell in Hampshire, her neighbour at Stratton.

² Sir John Granville, Earl of Bath; the same who had been the messenger between the King and Parliament at the time of the Restoration. The appointment Lady Russell mentions as a report, did not take place; the treasury having been put in commission.

³ Lady Margaret Russell.

1679. Williamson is gone with his lady into the country.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

London, February, 1679.

Thursday, 7 o'clock.

I WAS very sorry to read anything under your hand, written so late as I had one brought me to Montagu House; but I heard yesterday morning, by a servant of my Lord Marquis, you got well to Teddington, so I hope you did to Basing,²

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² The seat of Charles Paulet, Marquis of Winchester, afterwards Duke of Bolton. This is the person of whom Sir John Reresby gives the following curious account the year before the Revolution. "In the midst of the impending dangers which seemed to threaten us, there was a nobleman, the Marquis of Winchester, who had, by his conduct, persuaded some people to think him mad, though he certainly acted upon principles of great human prudence. This gentleman passing through Yorkshire in his way to London, I went to pay him a visit; he had four coaches and a hundred horses in his retinue, and staid ten days at a house that he borrowed in our parts. His custom was to dine at six or seven in the evening, and his meal always lasted till six or seven the next morning; during which he sometimes drank, sometimes he listened to music, sometimes he fell into discourse, sometimes he took tobacco, and sometimes he ate his victuals; while the company had free choice to sit or rise, to go or come, to sleep or not. The dishes and bottles were all the time before them on the table; and when it was morning, he would hunt or hawk, if the weather was fair, if not, he would dance, go to bed at eleven, and repose himself till the evening. Notwithstanding this irregularity, he was a man of great sense, and though, as I just now said, some took him for mad, it is certain his meaning was to keep himself out of the way of more serious censure in these ticklish days, and preserve his estate, which he took great care of."—Reresby's Memoirs, p. 247.

It is certain that he was already, at the time Sir John Reresby wrote,

and our poor Stratton, and will by Saturday night 1679. to the creature of the world that loves you best. I have lived as retired, since you went, as the severest and jealous husband could enjoin a wife: so that I am not fitted to entertain you with passages in the town, knowing no more how the world goes, than an Italian lady, they say, usually does. The weather has been of the worst kind here, continually either snow, hail, or high winds: God keep you from colds! I wish you may know when you are well, and not stir from my Lord Marquis, whose very humble servant I am, and must be the more so, because I think he is so kind to you, as that my Lord would willingly agree to my wish.¹ To take up as little of your time as I can, I have sent you my sister's letter to read; my answer to

in correspondence with the Prince of Orange. See several of his letters in "Dalrymple's Appendix," vol. ii.

¹ The following letter, written at this time from Basing, is among the very few, yet extant, from Lord Russell to his wife:—

"Basing, February the 8th, 1678–9.

"I am stole from a great many gentlemen into the drawing-room at Basing, for a moment, to tell my dearest I have thought of her being here the last time, and wished for her a thousand times; but in vain, alas! for I am just going now to Stratton, and want the chariot, and my dearest dear in it. I hope to be with you on Saturday. We have had a very troublesome journey of it, and insignificant enough, by the fairness and excess of civility of somebody:—but more of that when I see you. I long for the time, and am, more than you can imagine, your

"RUSSELL.

"I am troubled at the weather for our ourselves, but much more for my sister. Pray God it may have no ill effect upon her, and that we may have a happy meeting on Saturday. I am Miss's humble servant."

1679. it you may guess at. I wrote at large what was said in my chamber: it might have been remembered, how you had accepted Bedfordshire, and the reports here of Sir Richard Knight, or such being set up. If I had news I should not be very ready to send it you, being sure my Lord Marquis would have it better expressed from several, therefore I have been the less inquisitive. My sister Northumberland had, last night, a letter from the Lady Northumberland;¹ all the account she gives her, is, that if her grandchild² likes the addresses of my Lord Ogle better than any others, she shall accept them: this is the whole; for all the rest of the letter is some kind of notice how severe she hears she is against her in her ordinary discourse. My Lord Ogle is come to town for certain, I think.

Your aunt tells me your cousin Newport³ will be chosen, it is declared; but she did not tell me how her lord took it. My sister was told yesterday Mr. Montagu was off for standing knight of the shire, but was for some borough. Mr. ———⁴ helps him too, and the election-day would be Satur-

¹ Her mother-in-law.

² The Lady Elizabeth Percy, married, at twelve years old, to the Earl of Ogle. She was not, even at this age, on good terms with her mother (Lady Russell's sister), as appears by a letter from Lady Russell to Lady Ogle, on her marriage, in this collection, dated April, 1679. [See page 13.]

³ Richard, son of Francis Lord Newport, by the Lady Diana Russell, an aunt of Lord Russell.

⁴ The name in the MS. not to be decyphered.

day ; but she knew nothing of this from him, or ^{1679.} anything else. Her little girl has been so ill two days, she feared the small-pox : I have not seen it, but she sent me word this morning Doctor Micklethwait thought it would prove an ague. Your sister is as well as is to be expected ; but we hear nothing of Lady Die. Our small ones are as you left them, I praise God ; Miss writes and lays the letters by, that papa may admire them when he comes : it is a moment more wished for than to be expressed by all the eloquence I am mistress of, yet you know how much that is ; but, my dear abuser I love more than my life, and am entirely his.

R. RUSSELL.

Amongst letters were opened, there was some of Lord Marquis's and Lord Shaftesbury's,¹ in all which they give their friends great caution not to choose fanatics, at which the King was much pleased, and said he had not heard so much good of them a great while. This is a report ; if I hear any other of any kind, I will send it from Montagu House, whither I am going, and will not seal it till I have been there : I know Lady Shaftesbury is there, my Lady Marquesse,² &c. I am

¹ Lord Shaftesbury was made President of the Council very soon after the date of this letter.

² The Marchioness of Winchester, second wife of the Marquis of Winchester above mentioned. The peerage calls her the eldest natural daughter of Emanuel Scroop, Earl of Sunderland, and widow of Henry,

1679. to play at basset¹ to-morrow, at Lady Shaftesbury's.

Lord Gray² says the Bedfordshire gentlemen are ready to break their hearts, that you are gone to Hampshire,³ and will leave them.

A near relation of Lady Catherine Obrien, says, this day, the marriage is owned with Williamson; he will be chosen at Queenborough. It seems he has, for some time past, given them plate for their church; so little Herbert will be to seek. It is for Nottingham, by Lord Manchester's interest, Mr. Montagu stands.

second son of Henry Carey, Earl of Monmouth. Emanuel Scroop, Earl of Sunderland, was the first and the last of his name who bore that title. The title of Marchioness was not yet in use. The wife of a *Marques* was then called a *Marquesse*.

¹ The name of a game at cards then much in fashion. [Thus celebrated by Pope:—

“But of what marble must that breast be form'd,
To gaze on basset, and remain unwarm'd?
When kings, queens, knaves, are set in decent rank;
Expos'd in glorious heaps the tempting bank,
Guineas, half-guineas, all the shining train;
The winner's pleasure, and the loser's pain:
In bright confusion open rouleaus lie,
They strike the soul, and glitter in the eye.
Fir'd by the sight, all reason I disdain;
My passions rise, and will not bear the rein.
Look upon basset, you who reason boast;
And see if reason must not there be lost.”

“THE BASSET TABLE.”—An Eclogue.]

² Ford Lord Grey, of Werke, married to Mary, fourth daughter of George Earl of Berkeley. His infamous amour and elopement with her sister, Lady Henrietta, did not take place till three years after this date.

³ Lord Russell had been returned both for Bedfordshire and Hampshire, and finally made his election for Bedfordshire.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

London, February 15, 1679.

AT dinner at Lord Shaftesbury's I received your letter, and found nothing in it that hindered my offering it him to read; he did so at the table, and some part of it to the company. Lord Wharton dined there, and Judge Ellis;² Charlton and Shaftesbury conclude Beecher³ will be the man. I wish the day over, but fear it is so likely to be a troublesome one, that I shall not see you so soon as my last desired; yet if it may be, I wish for it; the main reason is, to discourse something of that affair my uncle (Ruvigny) was on Sunday so long with me about. It is urged, and your Lordship is thought a necessary person to advise with about it.⁴ Your tasks are like to be difficult in town and country: I pray God direct your judgment in all your actions. I saw Sir Ieveril⁵ at Lord Shaftesbury's, who told him my

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.² Sir William Ellis, a puisne Judge of the Common Pleas.³ No one of the name of Beecher was elected into this Parliament.⁴ This may probably allude to the Exclusion Bill, the progress of which was only postponed by the prorogation and subsequent dissolution of this Parliament, which, having met in March, was dissolved in May of the same year. The Exclusion Bill was resumed with fresh spirit by Lord Russell and his friends in the ensuing Parliament, which met in October, 1680.⁵ This name is here printed from the spelling of the MS., but the editor neither knows the name as it stands, nor for whom it is meant.

1679. Lord Russell was a greater man than he, for he was but one knight, and Lord Russell would be two. Sir Ieveril answered, if it were in his power he should be a hundred. This is but one of many fine things I heard to-day, yet my heart thinks abundantly more due to my man. I write again in Northumberland's¹ chamber; and Mrs. Young has come in, who says Berry² is turned Protestant, and has confessed very much, and wrote a letter to the King that tells such things, Mr. Stanhope, who is at basset, says he dares not repeat it. Aunt Tresam loses, and bates me to end this. My love, I am in pain, till Tuesday is past, because I am sure you must have a great deal. I am, to the last minute of my life, your most obedient wife,

R. RUSSELL.

Saturday night.

Your sister rose to-day. My best service to brother James. I sent your letter to Lord Bedford.

For the Lord Russell, at Woburn Abbey, in Bedfordshire,
to be left with the Postmaster at Brick Hill.

¹ Her sister.

² Henry Berry, one of the three persons who had been convicted of the murder of Sir Edmondbury Godfrey. The report Lady Russell here mentions on this subject was false; for he and his two associates, Green and Hill, were executed on the 21st of this month, denying the fact for which they suffered to the last.

LADY RUSSELL TO THE COUNTESS OF OGLE.¹

April 1, 1679.

My Lord of Essex,² on Saturday morning, sent me your Ladyship's letter. In it I find the change you have made in your condition. You have my prayers and wishes, dear Lady Ogle, that it may

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² The Earl of Essex was the uncle, by marriage, of Lady Ogle, his wife being Elizabeth, sister of Jocelyn Percy, the last Earl of Northumberland, Lady Ogle's father. The early history of this great heiress seems to have been very unfortunate. We see by this letter, that, on her first marriage with Lord Ogle, contracted in childhood, her mother had not been consulted by the rest of her family. When Lord Ogle's death, within a twelve-month after, set her again free, she was again made a prey to interested motives. Her second marriage with Mr. Thynne, in 1681, seems to have been at once offensive to most of her own family, and not much desired by herself, as she could not have been very averse to the attentions paid her by Count Koningsmarck, when he imagined the base and wild possibility of gaining possession of her by the murder of Mr. Thynne. Evelyn, in his Diary, gives the following account of a conversation with Lord Essex, on the subject of this second marriage with Mr. Thynne, attributing motives to her grandmother which, if known to be true, might have inspired some hopes of success, by lawless means, to a profligate libertine, such as we know Count Koningsmarck to have been.

15th Oct. 1681.—“I dined with the Earl of Essex, who after dinner, in his study, where we were alone, related to me how much he had been scandalized and injured in the report of his being privy to the marriage of his lady's niece, the rich young widow of the late Lord Ogle, sole daughter of the Earl of Northumberland; shewing me a letter of Mr. Thynne's, excusing himself for not communicating his marriage to his lordship. He acquainted me also with the whole story of that unfortunate lady's being betrayed by her grandmother, the Countess of Northumberland, and Colonel Brett, for money; and that, upon the importunity of the Duke of Monmouth, he had delivered to the grandmother a particular of the jointure which Mr. Thynne pretended he could settle on the lady;

1679. prove as fortunate to you as ever it did to any, and that you may know happiness to a good old age: but, Madam, I cannot think you can be completely so, with a misunderstanding between so near a relation as a mother; and, therefore, (in pursuance of my wish,) I must do you all the service in my power. But, surely, Madam, it must be chiefly your own act; and you cannot pursue, in my opinion, so commendable a design too eagerly. No applications can now be too earnest to obtain her pardon, nor could have been to have prevented the misfortune of her displeasure, whose tender kindness you cannot but be convinced of; and, consequently, Madam, that all her advice could have no other aim and end but your being happy; and reasonably concluding the freeness of your choice was likely to make you so, she could not think your avoiding to see so many, alike qualified to make their addresses to you, was the way to make you so impartial in your judgment (as you say, in your letter, you believe you have been). I hope it will prove the best for you; but I cannot make use of your argument to her, not thinking it of force to persuade her to what you desire, and know none so probable as your own constant solicitations, which will, I hope, prevail with her

yet he totally discouraged the proceeding, as by no means a competent match for one that, both by birth and fortune, might have pretended to the greatest prince in Christendom: that he had also proposed the Earl of Kingston, or the Lord Cranburn, but was by no means for Mr. Thynne."

good-nature. I am certain I do passionately desire 1679.
it, and shall infinitely rejoice to be a witness of
it, as must all those that are as sincerely as I am,

Yours.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

London, April 3, 1680.

To be absent from the best and most loved thing
and friend in the world, and now, I may almost
say, the only one I have in it, must cause some
alteration in a person sensible of her condition; but
for any other, I praise God I can complain of none.
I have kept close to my easy chair this very ill
stormy day; but been uneasy in my thoughts for
the two travellers. God grant you keep from cold,
and preserve you from all other ills! I have staid
till past eight, to get news, and now Lady South-
ampton and Mr. Darcy² is come in, so I must
shorten my converse with my best and only true
joy. Charlton is, I believe, out of town, and so is
all the world to me, I think, for I have seen nobody
but your father and brother Ned: all I can hear is,
the King has forbid the Duke of Monmouth to see
Nell (Nell Gwynne); that is, I should say Nelly
to see him. The Princess of Orange is not likely

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² Conyers Darcy, son of Lord Darcy and Conyers. He was married to
Lady Southampton, the widow of Lady Russell's father; and was created
Earl of Holderness in 1682.

1680. to last long, as is said. Lady Inchiquin¹ was here last night; she meant to go to-day, and get a doctor to go with her. There is a report that the witness whom they secured about this Irish plot is got away: this is our neighbours' news; Lady Southampton brought it. I hope, by Tuesday, to do better things. Our girls are, I hope, as well as you can wish them. The widow² and I are going to a partridge and Woburn rabbits. My sister Allington is not very well yet, but no fear, I hope, of miscarrying. Good night, my dearest love; I am inviolably yours,

R. RUSSELL.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.³

London, 1680.

Ten o'clock, Sunday night.

My thoughts being ever best pleased when I, in some kind or other, entertain myself with the dearest of men, you may be sure I do most willingly prepare this for Mr. Chandler. If I do hear to-morrow from you, it will be a great pleasure to

¹ Lady Inchiquin was a Villiers, daughter of Sir Edward Villiers, and sister of the first Earl of Jersey, and of the Ladies Fitzharding and Orkney. She was the only English woman of quality who accompanied the Princess of Orange to Holland on her marriage. This account of the Princess's health was one of the many false reports of the day.

² Probably the Mrs. Tresam, mentioned more than once in these letters by the name of "Aunt Tresam."

³ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

know you got well to Stratton, though I fear for 1680. you every day, knowing you will frisk out abroad. Mr. James, (Russell,) I hope, airs your rooms well with good fires. Your father sighs with the prospect of his journey. Mrs. Herbert, the doctors conclude, cannot live: Scarborough¹ only has some hopes: he is now called in. Mr. Montagu was to see her, and says she is as her sister Denham² was. The Lord Shrewsbury³ is like to lose both eyes. It is very true, the gentleman that was put into the messenger's hands, is gone; but, as I have it from a privy counsellor, he was first put there, by his own desires, for safety, pretending fear of his life, but is now sent into Ireland with the messenger, as I gather, to be hanged for other crimes, he being, as my author has it, the greatest rogue alive, and witnessed to be so, by a man

¹ Sir Charles Scarborough, first physician to Charles the Second. [He had a fine library, many of his books were purchased by the Earl of Sunderland. Evelyn says it was the best collection of mathematical books in Europe, once designed for the King's library at St. James's.]

² Lady Denham was a Miss Brooke, married to Sir John Denham the poet, author of "Cooper's Hill." Her portrait is among the beauties at Windsor, and her history among the heroines of the "Memoires de Grammont." The story there mentioned of her being poisoned, is repeated in Aubrey's "Lives of Eminent Persons," but with another version. Both reports were probably false, as Lady Russell here speaks of Lady Denham's sister, Mrs. Herbert, dying *in the same way*, and *she* was not poisoned, either by the jealousy of her husband, or by that of the Countess of Rochester. See Aubrey's "Lives of Eminent Persons," &c. vol. ii. p. 319.

³ Charles Talbot, afterwards Duke of Shrewsbury, son of the Earl of Shrewsbury, killed in a duel by the Duke of Buckingham.

1680. Lord Essex¹ brought to see him, who he was confident must know him, and so he did, saying he would not, for a world, be one hour alone with him, so dangerous a man he was; at which character Lord Essex was much confounded, having appeared so much before for him, and seemed to credit his informations. Another witness, he named, is sent for out of Ireland, who is in gaol for horrid crimes; they are both Tories, so was the fellow they pretend was poisoned, another villain also, for this person Lord Essex brought knows them all: this man was kept so private, none ever saw him since the messenger took him, but themselves, nor know what is become of him, but those so happily informed as myself. A lady out of the city told me it is certain there was before the Mayor yesterday examinations of some apprentices concerning a new plot,² and that five did take their oaths, it was to put the lords out of the Tower, and burn them and the Duchess of Portsmouth together: this is the latest design I hear of: if any other discoveries be made between this and Tuesday night, I hope I shall not fail to be your informer, and after that, that you will quickly be mine again:

¹ Arthur Capel, Earl of Essex, he who perished in the Tower by his own hand, on the very day, and during the time of Lord Russell's trial. He had been Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and had returned from thence this year.

² Called, in that plotting age, the *Prentices' Plot*. The lords in the Tower were Earl Powis, Viscount Stafford, Lord Arundel of Wardour and Lord Bellasis.

I long for it truly, my dear. Lady Southampton 1680. was to see the Marquesse of Winchester to-day: she says her Lord will try how Bourbon waters agree with him before she goes: so my Lady is to follow: she wants to go with him, she says: I know who could not be so shook off. Now they say, none must come to court that sees the Duke of Monmouth. The dinner at the club in the city has more angered the King than anything yet. Mr. Craford has stole a young woman worth 2000*l*. out of a window. Her mother had employed him to persuade her against a match she was not willing to consent to, and so he did, most effectually. Miss says she means to write herself, so I have no messages; but she knows not, I think, of this express, for truly, I had forgot it till, as I supped, they remembered me. I am so well pleased to be alone, and scribbling, that I never consider the matter. Pardon, my dear love, (as you have a thousand other failings,) all the nonsense of this, and accept the passionate, kind intentions of your

R. RUSSELL.

The painting cannot be done till Wednesday: he can get no men to work. Lady Die is pretty well, they send me word from her house. Lauderdale¹ is only troubled with rheumatism. It is so cold, I stirred not to-day to chapel.

¹ The Duke of Lauderdale, the tyrannical and worthless administrator of the affairs of Scotland during the greatest part of the reign of Charles the Second. See "Burnet's History of his Own Times," *passim*.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

London, 1680.

1680. I HAVE thought the day long, because I could never be alone to entertain myself, as I had most mind to do. I have now only Lady Margaret² left, who is so kind as to stay and eat a Woburn rabbit with me; and I believe they are just coming up, and it is nine o'clock; yet I must tell my joy I received his, and am glad to find Mr. James (Russell) is so very well accommodated for the weather, and so delighted with the country, and so much in the air, without caring for hat or periwig on his head. All the talk is, the Duke of Monmouth is to be sent for to appear at council; great talk of his raising a regiment; letters taken, and witnesses to prove. I was told this evening there would be some discourses to-morrow at council about this, and perhaps he might appear though not sent for. Lord Cavendish³ is not to be ad-

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² Lady Margaret Russell.

³ William, first Duke of Devonshire, the spirited friend of Lord Russell. See various anecdotes of his early life at this period, in the letters of Lady Sunderland, in Miss Berry's Memoir, p. 327. Mr. Macaulay speaks of "his magnificence, his taste, his talents, his high spirit, the grace and urbanity of his manners, admitted by his enemies. . . . He had stood near Russell at the bar, had parted from him on the sad morn- of the execution with close embraces and many bitter tears, nay, had offered to manage an escape at the hazard of his own life."—History, vol. ii. p. 32.

mitted to Nell Gwynne's house, nor Mr. Thynne.¹ 1680. Lady Ann Barrington,² about ten days ago, left her husband a letter to tell him she was gone to a fine place, where she should be very well pleased: his house was so dirty she could not endure it longer; so was not heard of till yesterday. She came home again, her sister was so afflicted, that a child dying, and another near, it was, she professed, the less affliction. Remembering no more tattle, and being nine o'clock, I take my leave, hoping to see your dear person in a few days. I am yours, as I should be,

R. RUSSELL.

For the Lord Russell.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.³

London, June 12, 1680.

My dearest heart, flesh and blood cannot have a truer and greater sense of their own happiness than your poor but honest wife has. I am glad

¹ Thomas Thynne, of Longleat, the same person who became the second husband of Lady Ogle, within a twelvemonth after the date of this letter, and who on her account (as it was supposed) was assassinated in his coach in Pall Mall, February, 1682, by Count Koningsmarck, and three foreigners under his orders. See a detailed account of the whole of this transaction in "Reresby's Memoirs," p. 135.

² Lady Ann Barrington was a daughter of Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick and Holland (the son of the Parliament's Admiral in the great rebellion). She married Sir John Barrington, of Barrington Hall, in Essex, Bart.

From Miss Berry's Memoir.

1680. you find Stratton so sweet; may you live to do so one fifty years more; and, if God pleases, I shall be glad I may keep your company most of those years, unless you wish other at any time; then I think I could willingly leave all in the world, knowing you would take care of our brats: they are both well, and your great one's letter she hopes came to you. Charlton dined at Lord Leicester's¹ to-day with the great men, yet brings no news. The three chits go down to Althorpe, if they can be spared. There is great talk of a new plot. Duke Monmouth, Lord Shaftesbury, and many concerned. Lord Essex named one; in a few days we shall know what can be made out. Sister Northumberland and Lady Mary are here, and also Charlton; so that the chat is not in a low voice; and they stay to call for ombre, a less pleasing exercise; I hope you think it is to your ever obedient and affectionate wife,

R. RUSSELL.

Saturday night.

For the Lord Russell, at Stratton, Hampshire,
to be left at Alresford, with the Postmaster there.

¹ Philip Earl of Leicester, the eldest brother of Algernon, Henry, and Robert Sydney, and of Lady Sunderland (Sacharissa). He married a daughter of the Earl of Salisbury and had three children, who may probably be the "*three Chits*" here mentioned as going down to Althorpe, the seat of their first cousin the Earl of Sunderland, Sacharissa's son.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

London, 1680.

THE sadness of the weather and the remembrance of Blackwater, makes me very solicitous to read your letter of Friday: I hope it will bring no worse news than I send, your girls and your wife being as well as my best love left them, I praise God. Little Kate² takes her journey often to papa, but the other keeps her cares in her breast. My sister Northumberland and aunt Tresam dined at Charlton's to-day. The first meaning was to carry Lady Mary as far towards Derbyshire, but the water is too high for her to pass; so she comes back with them, and that may be a pretence for another dinner if he pleases. I believe there is no other news but the enclosed; for Mr. Montagu was here this afternoon, and sat an hour by Lord Shaftesbury and I, and nothing could I learn of him. Several of the council went down to-day to Windsor, in order to to-morrow's business. Most say a parliament will sit;³ some, the league is conditional it should do so. Lord Radnor⁴ was sent for on Sunday to the council,

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.² Their second daughter, afterwards Duchess of Rutland.³ It did not meet till the 21st October of this year. The Whigs had so great a majority in the Commons, that the Exclusion Bill went through all its stages there without difficulty.—Macaulay, vol. i. p. 258.⁴ Robartes, Earl of Radnor. He had been made President of the Council on the dismissal of the Earl of Shaftesbury in October, 1679.

1680. but he said he must serve God before the King, and desired to be excused, as my author says. Lord Rochester has converted his wife:¹ she received the sacrament on Whitsunday, and is a mighty penitent at present; himself I mean. I wish your business so soon dispatched, that I will not take more of your time than is just necessary to tell you, you have a loving creature of your

R. RUSSELL.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.²

London, 1680. Saturday night.

THESE are the pleasing moments, in absence my dearest blessing, either to read something from you or be writing something to you; yet I never do it but I am touched with a sensible regret, that I cannot pour out in words what my heart is so big with, which is much more just to your dear self (in a passionate return of love and gratitude) than I can tell you; but it is not my talent; and so I hope not a necessary signification of the truth of it; at least not thought so by you. I hear you had the opportunity of making your court handsomely at Bagshot,³ if you had had the grace to have taken

¹ John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, was married to Elizabeth Mallet, daughter of J. Mallet, Esq. of Enmore, in the county of Somerset.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

³ This must have been to the Duke of York then resident there, for she afterwards mentions the King as being at Windsor.

the good fortune offered. The Lord Pembroke 1680. is glad to keep out of sight at present,¹ though I was told the Lord Dunbarton says, he did no more than a man of honour ought to have done. As I was writing as much as I knew of the story, my sister sends me the print.² I present it to Mr. James.³ It was Lord Colchester⁴ helped to get him off, as they say. Bedloe⁵ is believed to be dead at Bristol of a fever. I am told that Jenks;⁶ you must guess who I mean, I know not how to spell it; it is Buckingham's creature; that he had yesterday a letter from Bristol, informing him that in his sickness, Bedloe sent for Sir John Knight, a parliament man,⁷ and told him he was likely to die; if he should, he did there declare, all the evidence he had given was true; he had more to say to him, but was faint then; so Sir John

¹ Philip, seventh Earl of Pembroke, had been committed to the Tower the year before, for some insult offered to the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church. He had likewise been tried in 1678, for the murder of Nathaniel Coney, but was brought in guilty only of manslaughter. See "State Trials." The Editor knows not if the story to which Lady Russell alludes is connected with either of these circumstances.

² She means a newspaper, or a printed account of this adventure, whatever it might be.

³ Mr. James Russell, Lord Russell's brother.

⁴ Thomas Lord Colchester, eldest son of Thomas Savage, Earl of Rivers, who died in his father's lifetime.

⁵ Bedloe was the colleague of the infamous Titus Oates, in the accusation of the Popish plot.

⁶ Probably Sir Leoline Jenkins, who in the beginning of this year had been made Secretary of State in the place of Mr. Henry Coventry.

⁷ He was member for Bristol.

1680. Knight left him, and about four hours after came again, and told him there was a privy councillor in town: it might do very well, he would say to him what he had more to say. Bedloe consented, and North was brought, though unwilling to come at first; so Sir John Knight withdrew, and North¹ and his clerk being only present, took his words, and then sealed up the paper. This is the story as I have it, and those who told it are confident there is truth in it. Your father writes me word, he had above twenty knights and gentlemen dined with him, and your health was heartily drunk. The King is very well at Windsor, as the inclosed will certify you,² if you can bestow time to read it. I care not to write a story out of it, so I send it. They say I shall be too late; yet I took to this exercise as soon as I could get from eating boiled oysters with Mr. Darcy; but I leave writing to Woburn also, so cannot lengthen this short epistle, from yours entirely,

R. RUSSELL.

Lady Ogle is well of the measles. Bethell³ has dined at Copt-Hall, and professed he did not find

¹ Sir Francis North, then Chief-Justice of the Common Pleas, afterwards Lord Keeper.

² A newspaper or letter, which is not to be found.

³ Slingsby Bethell, who with Alderman Cornish were Sheriffs of London this year. See Lady Sunderland's letters, No. 6. Copt-Hall was then inhabited by Charles Sackville, Earl of Dorset: now the property of Henry Conyers, Esq. Some account of the proceedings of

courtiers such bugbears as some would have them; 1680. so that possibly it is hoped in time he may understand himself.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

London, August 24, 1680.

ABSENT or present, my dearest life is equally obliging, and ever the earthly delight of my soul, it is my great care (or ought to be so) so to moderate my sense of happiness here, that when the appointed time comes of my leaving it, or its leaving me, I may not be unwilling to forsake the one, or be in some measure prepared and fit to bear the trial of the other. This very hot weather does incommode me, but otherwise I am very well, and both your girls. Your letter was cherished as it deserved, and so, I make no doubt, was hers, which she took very ill I should suspect she was directed in, as truly I thought she was, the fancy was so pretty. I have a letter about the buck, as usual, from St. Giles's;² but when you come up, I suppose it will be time enough to give order: the 1st of September is the day they desire it.

these "mooting Sheriffs," as L'Estrange calls them, on the execution of Viscount Stafford, will be found in the "Enquiry into Echard's Statement of the part Lord Russell took on that occasion."—8vo. Lond. 1852. Privately printed.

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² The seat of the Earl of Shaftesbury, in Dorsetshire.

1680. Coming so lately from St. Giles's I am not solicitous for news for you, especially Sir Harry Capel¹ being to see your Lordship to-morrow; and the greatest discourse we have is (next to Bedloe's affidavit), Tongue's accusing Lord Essex, Lord Shaftesbury, and Lord Wharton for the contrivers of the plot, and setting his father and Oates to act their parts; this was told me by a black-coat who made me a visit yesterday, but I hear it by nobody else. My sister and Lady Inchiquin are coming, so that I must leave a better diversion for a worse, but my thoughts often return where all my delight is. I am yours entirely,

R. RUSSELL.

They say Lord Pembroke is at Paris. Sir John Curiton² is dead: Master Charlton knows him. You may tell him his lady is well, sitting by me. His son is come this morning from Tunbridge. He says the waters agree to a miracle with Mr. Montagu: he comes back on Saturday. Chief Justice North sent up Bedloe's affidavit to the Council; but Lord Bath says it was no more but to confirm what he had evidenced in his life, though others will not believe it. My sister and

¹ Brother to Arthur Earl of Essex. He was made a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles II., and was afterwards created a Baron by the title of Lord Cape of Tewkesbury.

² Most probably Sir John Coryton, Bart., of Newton, co. Cornwall, who died about this time.

Lady Inchiquin are just come from Bartholomew 1680. Fair,¹ and stored us all with fairings.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.²

London, September 17, 1680.

THOSE moments of true pleasure, I proposed at the opening of your letter, were hugely disappointed; first, when I found less, than one would dispatch in the reading of it; and secondly, yet more, that I could not prolong my delight as usual, by reflections on those expressions I receive as the joy of my unworthy life, which can never be very miserable in any accident of it, whilst my affectionate heart can think you mine, as I do now. But your headache over night, and a dinner at Bedford next day, gives me more than ordinary longings for a new report of your health in this crazy time. The maid, in our house, died last night. Poor Lord Shaftesbury continues ill. As I was at dinner yesterday, the doctor coming to the maid, was sent for to him, so I did not see him, to enquire what he thought of him; though I fancy it was the first time he had been sent for, and so he knew nothing of his condition. I doubt he had a double fit yesterday, as I can under-

¹ Bartholomew Fair was, in these days, we see, visited by the first company in London.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

1680. stand by messages. He has taken the Jesuits' powder five times since yesterday morning. Lord Halifax¹ came to town on Thursday, and next morning his coach stood at Sir Thomas Chichley's.² The town says he is to hear all sides, and then choose wisely. He kissed the Duchess's (Portsmouth) hand last night; and she is gone this morning to tell the news at Newmarket.³ My brother James walked over to-day to show me how fair he looks, now he has a swelled face; but talks of Woburn on Monday, hating the place he has been sick in. Lady Newport, my sister Allington tells me, is ill: was taken with a coldness in her head, and drowsiness; but was better to-day, and talks cheerfully. Lord Lauderdale, it is plain, his humble servants say, is not out of favour, but being weary of business, transfers it to a son-in-law. My sister Allington desires you to bring her some larks from Dunstable.⁴ I forgot to send her of mine; so have not confessed I had any, unless she hears otherwise of them. Sir John Barnardiston⁵ at Hackney, that was cut for the

¹ George Savile, Earl, and afterwards Marquis of Halifax. He had married Lord Sunderland's sister, the daughter of Sacharissa. See her letters addressed to him, in Miss Berry's Memoir, p. 328.

² Sir Thomas Chichley was married to Lord Halifax's mother. He was member for the town of Cambridge.

³ To the King, who was there.

⁴ Dunstable still maintains its reputation for these birds.

⁵ Father to Sir Samuel Barnardiston, who was tried in 1684, for sedition, and fined ten thousand pounds, for writing four private letters, in

stone, is dead. Dispose, I beseech you, of my 1680. duty and service, and all other ways, as you please, in all particulars, of your ever faithful, obedient, passionately affectionate wife,

R. RUSSELL.

Sidney¹ is come: he says the Duke of Hanover² is coming over to take our Lady Anne away. I hear he runs high in his discourse, what a brother, so provoked, may be induced to do. The Duchess (of York) is to have three new maids, Miss Watts, Miss Falbrey, and one Miss Len, a niece of Lady Pulteney's; and the Duke must give 200*l.* a year a piece.

Mrs. Cellier³ stood this day in the pillory, but

which the execution of Lord Russell and Algernon Sidney was commented on, and blamed.

¹ Henry Sidney, afterwards Earl of Romney. A younger brother of Algernon Sidney. He was now returned from Holland, where he had been minister. What the provocation here alluded to is not clear. Algernon Sidney had received the King's pardon, and permission to return to England in 1677. He had since twice lost his election for a seat in the House of Commons, by the opposition of the Court, and had attached himself to that party, who, unfortunately for themselves, had allowed the Duke of Monmouth to rank himself among them. The "discourse" of Henry Sidney seems to allude to what his brother Algernon "so provoked," not himself, "might be induced to do." Or whether the provocation was Henry Sidney's, at the opposition of the Court to his brother's election, and the evil eye with which he was considered, or at Algernon's still associating with a suspected party, seems doubtful. See Lady Sunderland's letters in Miss Berry's Memoir.

² Afterwards George the First. He came to England in December of this year, with an intention, as it seems, of marrying the "Lady," afterwards Queen "Anne."

³ Mrs. Cellier, a midwife, of the Roman Catholic religion. A woman

1680. her head was not put in the hole, but defended one side of her head, as a kind of battledore did the other, which she held in her hand. All the stones that were thrown within reach, she took up and put in her pocket.

My sister Northumberland's intelligence is, that Madame de Soissons¹ has won millions at play

of some cleverness, but of very bad character. She had been charged, in the preceding year, with being concerned in the Popish Plot, but was acquitted; and her accuser, Dangerfield, committed to prison. She had been now convicted of the publication of a libel, called "*Malice Defeated*;"* and was sentenced to stand three times in the pillory, and fined a thousand pounds.

¹ Olympia Mancini, Comtesse de Soissons, sister to Madame de Mazarin, and mother to Prince Eugene. She had fled from France the January of this year, being implicated in the affair of La Voisin's poisonings. She was *décorée de prise du corps*, by the tribunals of Paris, and never returned to France, living afterwards at Bruxelles. Madame de Sevigné gives the following account of her sudden disappearance from a supper at her own house at Paris, together with another woman of fashion, accused of the same crime:—

"Pour Madame la Comtesse de Soissons elle n'a pu envisager la prison; on a bien voulu lui donner le tems de s'enfuir; si elle est coupable. Elle jouoit à la bassette Mercredi: M. de Bouillon entra; il la pria de passer dans son cabinet, et lui dit qu'il falloit sortir de France, ou aller à la Bastille, elle ne balança point; elle fit sortir du jeu la Marquise d'Alluie; elles ne parurent plus. L'heure du souper vint; on dit que la Comtesse soupait en ville: tout le monde s'en alla, persuadé de quelque chose d'extraordinaire. Cependant on fit beaucoup de paquets, on prit de l'argent, des pierreries; on fit prendre des justaucorps gris aux laquais, aux cochers, on fit mettre huit chevaux au carrosse. Elle fit placer auprès d'elle dans le fond la Marquise d'Alluie qu'on dit qui ne vouloit pas aller, et deux

* London, 1680. Folio. At the end of this account, published by herself, she says,—“I do not yet so much fear the smell of Newgate, as to be frightened for telling the truth; nor is death so great a terror to me, but that I am still ready to seal the same with my blood.”

of the Jews at Amsterdam. She says also, that 1680. Lady Halifax¹ has lost no beauty in the country, and takes particular care you may know it. Mrs. Lawson is coming up again; so that there is great strife likely to be between her and your cousin Howard of Escrick.

They say this young Hanover is one of the handsomest and best bred men of the age: spends now in the academy twenty thousand pounds a year.

Do not forget the larks.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.²

From Stratton to London (during the sitting of Parliament), 1680.

Thursday night.

SENDING your victuals by the higler, I take the same opportunity to let my dearest know I have his by the coach, and do humbly and heartily praise my God for the refreshing news of his being well: yet you do not in words tell me if you are very well; and your going to the House tells no more than that you are not very ill. If your nose bleeds as it did, pray let me beg of you to give

femmes de chambre sur le devant. Elle dit à ses gens qu'ils ne se missent point en peine d'elle, qu'elle étoit innocente: mais que ces coquines de femmes avoient pris plaisir à la nommer: elle pleura: elle passa chez Madame de Carignan, et sortit de Paris à trois heures du matin."—*"Lettres de Madame de Sevigné,"* vol. v. p. 53. Grouvelle's edition.

¹ Lord Halifax's second wife; the lady here mentioned, was Gertrude, daughter of William Pierrepont, second son of the Earl of Kingston.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

1680. yourself time to bleed in the arm. My heart, be assured, mine is not easy, till I am where you are; therefore, send us a coach as soon as you can: it shall find us ready whenever it comes, if God bless us to be well. I wrote more fully to this purpose in the morning, only I am willing to hint it again, in case of its miscarriage. I have sent up one maid this day, and on Monday all follow. It seems to me the ladies at Petworth¹ are as particular to the Marquis as they were to the Duke before: but the wondrous things he tells, I may aim at, but shall never guess, nor care to do it; or anything else, but to move towards London, and meet my better life, as I wish to see him, well and mine, as I am his, and so to be to an old age; but above all, praying for hearts and minds fitly disposed to submit to the wise and merciful dispensations of the great God. I mean to keep your friend Chesterfield's²

¹ "The ladies at Petworth" were probably the Countess of Northumberland (Lady Russell's sister), her daughter, Lady Ogle, and her mother-in-law, the elder Countess Dowager of Northumberland, sister to the Earl of Suffolk.

² Philip Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield, whose son afterwards married a daughter of Lord Halifax's by his second wife, who was mother to the fourth Earl, author of the "Letters to his Son."

The letter here mentioned is not to be found, but the following letter from the same correspondent to Lord Russell, of a much earlier date, appears to the Editor worth preserving.

"June the 7th, Bretby, 1673.

"Since nothing can give me greater satisfaction than the testimonies of your kindness, I think I need not tell you, how much you obliged me by the favour of your last letter, which as at first it gave me great concern

letter; and hope you will make good his character 1680. in all accidents of your life. From the sharpest trials good Lord preserve us, if it may be. I guess my lord will be soon in town; pray present my duty to him. Our girls are very well: we were altogether at the farm-house this day. They are plastering the granary. Pray keep good hours, and take care of ——¹ hackney coaches. Believe me your obedient wife,

R. RUSSELL.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.²

London, February, 1680. Tuesday night.

SINCE you resolve not to be here till Thursday, this may come time enough to tell you we are all

for your indisposition, so the latter part dissipated that trouble, by the assurance of your perfect recovery, and brought me the relation of our engagement with the Dutch, which I hear since was much to the advantage of his Majesty's navy, I cannot say of England, since many judicious persons, who love both their King and country, do apprehend the ruin of our enemies, likely to prove fatal to ourselves; but I hope this is a vulgar error: however, I am sure it is no ill prayer to desire God to grant us what is necessary for us, since He knows better than we that ask. Possibly this ejaculation may surprise you; but, dear friend, if the country,* a wet summer, and the being forty years old, does not mortify a man, he must be of a much stronger constitution than is, Sir,

"Your most faithful, and ever humble Servant,

"CHESTERFIELD.

"Pray let my obedient service be presented to the Lady Vaughan."

¹ A word in the MS. not to be deciphered.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

* See the reasons assigned for his retreat into the country, in the "Memoires de Grammont."

1680. well; and I will say little more, guessing this as likely to miss of coming to your hands, as to be read by you, since I hope you lie at Dunstable to-morrow. I shall defer answering any particular of your last till we meet, and then shall fail, I doubt, of my part in some; but it will be by my incapacity, who can never be what I should or would to my best and dearest life: but I ever will submit. I saw Lord Bedford to-day at Southampton House. Lord Essex has lost his youngest son. The match is concluded with our Madame¹ in France, and the King of Spain, as Lady Newport says. I am in a little haste, and am content to be so, because I think what I have said is to no purpose: but I defy Lord Russell to wish for Thursday with more joy and passion; and will make him own he has a thousand times less reason to do so than has his

R. RUSSELL.

For the Lord Russell, at Woburn Abbey,
Bedfordshire; to be left with the Post-
master at Brick Hill.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.²

London, September 6, 1680.

My girls and I being just risen from dinner, Miss Rachael followed me into my chamber, and

¹ "Our Madame," must mean the infant daughter of Henrietta, Duchess of Orleans; then about seven or eight years old.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

seeing me take the pen and ink, asked me what I was going to do. I told her I was going to write to her papa, "So will I," said she; "and while you write, I will think what I have to say;" and truly, before I could write one word, she came and told me she had done; so I set down her words; and she is hard at the business, as I am not, one would conclude, by the pertinence of this beginning: but my dear man has taken me for better and worse in all conditions, and knows my soul to him; so expressions are but a pleasure to myself, not him who believes better things of me than my ill rhetoric will induce him to by my words. To this minute I am not one jot wiser as to intelligence, (whatever other improvements my study has made me,) but I hope the afternoon's conversation will better me that way. Lady Shaftesbury sends me word, if her lord continues as well as he was this morning, I shall see her; and my sister was visiting yesterday. I will suck the honey from them all if they will be communicative. I have not seen Allington. Mr. James had a gentle fit, no cold, and is pretty well to-day; if it holds, he sends me word. Pray talk of his nurse, that she that is, may not be thought the occasion of my not liking her. I have staid till Mr. Cheeke¹ is come in, and he helps me to nothing but a few half-crowns, I expect, at back-gammon; unless

¹ A son of Sir Thomas Cheeke. He was married to a daughter of Philip Sidney, Earl of Leicester.

1681. he may read my letter, he vows he would tell me none, if he knew any; and doubting it is not worth his perusal, I hasten to shut it up. Lord Shaftesbury was alone, so his lady came not. I hear my sister and Lady Harvey went thither this afternoon; but she has not called here to-night. Your birds came safe to feast us to-morrow. I am yours, my dear love,

R. RUSSELL.

For the Lord Russell, at Woburn Abbey,
Bedfordshire; to be left at Brick Hill.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

London, about February, 1681.

FROM the opinion I have, that Lord Russell is a very sincere person, I am very well pleased with all the parts of his letter, that he came in good time to his inn, and had really such kind reflections as he tells me of. I hope we shall enjoy those dozen years he speaks of, and cannot forbear wishing to double them: as one pleasure passes, I doubt not, but we shall find new ones; our nursery will help to furnish us; it is in good order, I thank God. Your father came this morning, and gave me the report of Devonshire elections. Sir William Courtney and Rolle carried it without polling: my brother Robert² says they joined, but

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² The Hon. Robert Russell, one of the brothers of Lord Russell.

sister Allington says Partridge has lost it by three 1681. or four hundred voices. Cotton and the other carried it; Russell lost it.¹ In Middlesex, Ranton and Roberts² have it. Lord Suffolk had a letter sent him, to let him know he need not wait: they sent it at eleven o'clock at night. Lord Manchester's³ was sent into the country to him. Lord Aylesbury acts as Lord Lieutenant in Huntingdonshire, for the Lord Sandwich;⁴ so does my Lord Chamberlain,⁵ for the Duke of Grafton, in

¹ For the county of Cambridge. The sitting members in this Parliament were Sir Robert Cotton and Sir Levinz Bennet. Those of the preceding Parliament had been Ferdinand Russell and Edward Patrick, Esquires.

² Nicolas Ranton and Sir William Robertes.

³ The Earl of Manchester had been Lord Chamberlain to the King, and seems to have been sent to Lord Suffolk, to explain or modify the letter he had received to dispense with his coming into waiting as Lord of the Bed-chamber to the King.

⁴ Lord Sandwich was a minor; the son of Edward Earl of Sandwich, who was blown up with his ship in the engagement with the Dutch fleet, 28th May, 1672. See "Evelyn's Diary," for his account of that transaction, and for Lord Sandwich's character, vol. i. p. 430.

⁵ The Earl of Arlington. The Duke of Grafton was his son-in-law; his only child, the Lady Isabella Bennet, having been married, at five years old, to the Duke of Grafton (son of the King and of the Duchess of Cleveland), at eight years old. See "Evelyn's Diary," vol. i. p. 432, who was present at this first marriage, and likewise at a second marriage, which took place between them in the year 1679, which he thus describes:—"6th November, 1679. Dined at the Countess of Sunderland's; and was this evening at the re-marriage of the Duchess of Grafton to the Duke (his Majesty's natural son), she being now twelve years old. The ceremony was performed in my Lord Chamberlain's (her father's) lodgings at Whitehall, by the Bishop of Rochester, his Majesty present. A sudden and unexpected thing, when every body believed the first marriage would have come to nothing; but the measure being determined, I

1681. Suffolk. And, at last, Lord Allington owns he is for Cambridgeshire, which, with the King's orders to stay at the Tower, when the Parliament sits at Oxford, put him in very good humour on Thursday last. I have not seen Charlton since you went. Your own story of thieves, and so many as we hear of every day, makes me very desirous

was privately invited by my lady her mother to be present. I confess I could give her little joy, and so I plainly told her; but she said the King would have it so, and there was no going back. This sweetest, hopefulest, most beautiful child, was sacrificed to a boy that had been rudely bred, without any thing to encourage them but his Majesty's pleasure. I pray God the sweet child find it to her advantage; who, if my augury deceive me not, will in a few years be such a paragon, as were fit to make the wife of the greatest prince in Europe. I staid supper, where his Majesty sate between the Duchess of Cleveland (the mother of the Duke of Grafton) and the sweet duchess the bride: there were several great persons and ladies present, without pomp. My love to my Lord Arlington's family and the sweet child made me behold all this with regret; though as the Duke of Grafton affects the sea, to which I find his father intends to use him, he may emerge a plain, useful, and robust officer; and, were he polished, a tolerable person, for he is exceeding handsome, by far surpassing any of the King's other natural issue."

In a fragment of a letter from Lord Russell to his wife, he says, "Lord Sunderland, I am told, exclaims openly of my Lord Arlington, and says, he had his promise for his daughter's marrying of his son." It would seem there were other pretenders to this infant heiress, by the following mention made of her in Carte's "Extracts from the Life of James II.," published in Macpherson's "State Papers:—"

July 13, 1672. "Buckingham proposed to the King, if he would break off the marriage with Lord Harry (created Duke of Grafton in 1677) and Arlington's daughter, to get Lady Percy (Lady Elizabeth Percy) for Lord Harry. The King answered that it was too late, the other being concluded. Buckingham, at the same time, offered to the Countess of Northumberland (Lady Russell's sister) to get the King to consent, that he should command the Duke of York to marry her."— See Macpherson, vol. i. p. 67.

of your being at poor Southampton House again, 1680.
in the arms of your

R. RUSSELL.

For the Lord Russell.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.¹

March 6, 1679—80.

THOUGH I am very earnest to hear, good doctor, how my brother² is after his journey, and melancholy welcome home, yet I had not troubled you so very soon, if some discourse with Lord Shaftesbury³ had not occasioned it, who coming here, was much concerned to find they could have no meeting with my brother, to adjust things as they desired; but since he did not apply himself to do it, they hope he is satisfied how they must proceed, in order to their trust; and telling me it was necessary they should speak with the person who managed the estate, and understood it best, I thought it fit to let my brother know it, and so if he please the same person (who I suppose to be Holloway) may bring up the papers; and being by so safe a messenger, my brother may consider

¹ A divine, for whom Lady Russell had a great esteem and friendship; he had been chaplain to her father, as he was afterwards to the Duke of York; rector of Cottenham, in Cambridgeshire, and canon of Windsor; which preferments he lost after the Revolution, upon refusal of the oaths.

² Lord Noel.

³ Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, who married Margaret, daughter of William Lord Spencer, and Penelope Wriothesley.

1681. whether he will not send the original ones; for their counsel says, they must be here, before they can do anything effectually. But my brother will, however, think fit to keep attested copies, and hasten those he sends up as soon as possible. This is what their counsel advises upon them as necessary, and absolutely so.

My Lord presents his service to my brother; I do so too; and heartily pray to God to comfort him in his sorrows, and direct him in all his actions.

I am, good Doctor,

Your humble servant,

R. RUSSELL.

My kindest service to all the dear young ones.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

London, March, 1681.

I HOPE my dearest did not interpret amiss any action of mine, from seven o'clock Thursday night, to nine on Friday morning; I am certain I had sufficient punishment for the ill conduct I used, of the short time then left us to spend together, without so terrible an addition: besides, I was really sorry I could not scribble as you told me you designed I should, not only that I might please myself with remembering I had done you some

From Miss Berry's Memoir.

little service at parting, but possibly I might have ^{1681.} prevailed for the laying by a smart word or so, which will now pass current, unless you will oblige a wife, after eleven years, by making such a sacrifice to her now and then, upon occasions offered. I hope, as I write this, you are safe near Oxford,¹ though it is not noon; but being to meet Lady Inchiquin at dinner at Montagu House, I thought this the best time to dispatch this affair with pleasure. If anything offers itself, fit to be inserted, I shall gladly do it; but I doubt it. Charlton going to-day to his lady's at Barnet, he promised me, if he knew anything before he set out, he would impart it. Lord Cavendish keeps a soldier at his back still.² Vendôme,³ another nephew, is come over; so they say he shall take Lord Cavendish's concern; but fighting must be in the end: what Lord Mordaunt has done can never be put up; nor he will not submit. We conclude nothing but the great Earl of Aylesbury can assist this matter: he must come up of necessity.

¹ The Parliament met this year at Oxford, on March the 21st; but, from its uncomplying temper with the wishes of the Court, was suddenly dissolved by the King on the 29th of the same month.

² This must probably have been to prevent an intended duel from some dispute at play.

³ The Vendôme here mentioned, was the *grand Prieur* Vendôme, great-nephew to Cardinal Mazarin, and son of Laura Mancini; he was consequently cousin to the Duchess of York, and to the Duchess of Mazarin. The nephew mentioned as already here, was the Duc de Nevers, brother to the Duchess of Mazarin.

1681. The report of our nursery, I humbly praise God, is very good. Master¹ improves really, I think, every day. Sure he is a goodly child; the more I see of others, the better he appears: I hope God will give him life and virtue. Misses and their mamma walked yesterday after dinner to see their cousin Allington. Miss Kate wished she might see him;² so I gratified her little person. Unless I see cause to add a note, this is all at this time from yours only entirely,

R. RUSSELL.

Look to your pockets: a printed paper says you will have fine papers put into them, and then witnesses to swear.³

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.⁴

London, March, 1681.

I CANNOT express to my dearest, how pleasant to me the sight of his hand is: yet I readily excuse the seeing of it, when he cannot perform it at a seasonable hour, or that he is pressed with

¹ Her son, Wriothesley, second Duke of Bedford, born 1st November, 1680.

² A new-born son of Lady Allington.

³ The caution here given conveys a curious idea of the suspicion and insecurity of the times.

⁴ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

more weighty affairs, so that I may be assured ^{1681.} he will let me know if he be not well. We are entertained with divers reports; yesterday's were, that my Lord Salisbury had broken his neck, and my Lord Shaftesbury was impeached, which puts his poor lady into uneasinesses, though we all conclude there is no reason to credit the report. I find by a letter of Pordage's,¹ that you expect to hear of us every day: if there were anything amiss, you should not fail; but while all is well, I thought we did enough. Truly it was my fault the intelligence of lies² are not sent; I believed you might buy them at Oxford. Your care to inform us of the King's speech was more than needed; we are better supplied than you imagine, having read that in print before you did, I believe. The Lord Mayor³ recovers. The Duchess of Buckingham⁴ is likely to be blind, a favour of her Lord's, which she has been ever very thankful for; but lately, some friend, in kindness, endeavouring to inform her judgment and reform her behaviour, reasoned it with her, and represented her obligation to such a husband, upon which the little wise woman showed some resentment to her lord; but he soon

¹ Pordage was the house-steward.

² She means, probably, the newspapers of the day.

³ The Lord Mayor, this year, was Sir Gilbert Gerard; the same who had headed a petition to the King, for calling a Parliament.

⁴ Mary, only child and heiress of Thomas Lord Fairfax, the Parliament-General, married to George Villiers, the second and last Duke of Buckingham of that family.

1681. made her confess who this friend was, and a grievous bustle there has been, but the poor creature is almost eaten up with her case. Our finer ladies are not all alike satisfied: Lady Arundel¹ goes not to Oxford, as she designed, but to Northamptonshire; and if she did not, Lady Betty Felton threatens to mortify her above all sufferance: for she vows she will not suffer Lord Shrewsbury² to adore there any longer; and for my Lord Thanet,³ she says, the world shall see how much more powerful her charms are than those of a great monarch. She is resolved to make that conquest, and then he shall behave himself, in Court or Parliament, as she appoints. These things we hear; they serve to pass our time, whether true or false. I hope you present my duty to my Lord, and gave him my reasons as I desired you, why I trouble him not with my letters. The children are all well. We hear the Lord Halifax is at Oxford; if that be false, let us know. My uncle Ruvigny has been indisposed with his phthisic:

¹ Probably Lady Arundel of Trerice. She was the daughter of Sir Henry Slingsby, of the county of York, and the widow of Sir Richard Mauleverer. After the death of Lord Arundel she married Thomas Herbert, eighth Earl of Pembroke.

² Charles Talbot, Earl and afterwards Duke of Shrewsbury, in 1691.

³ Nicholas Tufton, Earl of Thanet, who married Elizabeth, third daughter of the Earl of Burlington. "Here is much striving for Lord Thanet. My Lord of Bedford would give 12,000*l.*, I believe that is true; but I do not, what I am told of my Lord of Winchester's orders left here to offer him 20,000*l.*"—Letter (4) Countess Dowager of Sunderland to the Earl of Halifax. Miss Berry's Memoir, p. 327.

he has not supped here yet; what he will to-night, 1681.
I know not. I think this is sufficient for one time,
from your obediently faithful wife,

R. RUSSELL.

Pordage's wife continues very ill. We have a report that the King's lip was bit with a weasel at Cornbury. My uncle, Mr. Charlton, Mr. James, your two sisters, are all your servants; but not one word the more in this letter for them.—My duty to papa.¹

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.²

Stratton, 1681. Thursday morning.

A MESSENGER, bringing things from Alresford this morning, gives me the opportunity of sending this by the post. If he will leave it at Frimley, it will let you know we are all well; if he does not, it may let such know it as do not care, but satisfy no one's curiosity in any other point; for, having said thus much, I am ready to conclude, with this one secret, first, that as thy precious self is the most endearing husband, I believe, in the world, so I am the most grateful wife, and my heart most gladly passionate in its returns. Now you have all, for this time, from your

R. RUSSELL.

¹ These last four words were written by the child.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

1681. Boy is asleep, girls singing a-bed. Lord Marquis¹ sent a compliment yesterday, that he heard one of the girls had the measles; and if I would remove the rest, he would leave his house at an hour's warning. I hope you deliver my service to Mr. James.

For the Lord Russell; to be left at Frimley.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.²

Stratton, 1681.

It is so much pleasure to me to write to you, when I shall see you so soon after, that I cannot deny myself the entertainment. My head will lie the easier on my pillow, where I am just going to lay it down, as soon as I have scribbled this side of paper. All has been well here since you, our best life, went. My nieces³ came last night from Tichfield, all but Betty, and Mr. Garat and Harborough. Sir Walter Young dined here to-day; as, I believe, he has told you, on the road he meant to lie at Harford Bridge to-night, and so to London to-morrow: he was not tempted to make one

¹ Of Winchester.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

³ The daughters of her eldest and favourite sister, Lady Elizabeth Wriothesley, married to Edward Noel Viscount Campden, created Earl of Gainsborough in 1682. They were then living at Tichfield, in Hampshire, which had been the seat of the Lord Treasurer Southampton. Elizabeth Noel, their third daughter, afterwards married Mr. Norton.

at our ball; but we have had one without him, 1681. very formally. I need not tell you I received your letter; Will Wright's¹ coming shows it: nor I need less say anything to acquaint your dear self the joys it brought with it, from the expressions in it to poor unworthy me: some alloys possibly I found, but I defer that matter till Friday, when I hope once more to be blessed with the sight of what I love best. Good night, dearest life: love your

R. RUSSELL.

I have sent you Mrs. Lacon's letter to read, not thinking it worth your reading at Stratton.

For the Lord Russell, at Frimley.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.²

Stratton, September 20, 1681.

To see anybody preparing, and taking their way to see what I long to do a thousand times more than they, makes me not endure to suffer their going, without saying something to my best life; though it is a kind of anticipating my joy when we shall meet, to allow myself so much before the time: but I confess I feel a great deal, that, though I left London with great reluctance, (as it is easy to persuade men a woman does,) yet

¹ A groom.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

1681. that I am not like to leave Stratton with greater. They will tell you how well I got hither, and how well I found our dear treasure here: your boy will please you; you will, I think, find him improved, though I tell you so beforehand. They fancy he wanted you; for, as soon as I alighted, he followed, calling Papa; but, I suppose it is the word he has most command of; so was not disobliged by the little fellow. The girls were fine, in remembrance of the happy 29th of September;¹ and we drank your health, after a red-deer pie; and at night your girls and I supped on a sack posset: nay, Master² would have his room; and for haste burnt his fingers in the posset; but he does but rub his hands for it. It is the most glorious weather here that ever was seen. The coach shall meet you at the cabbage-garden: be there by eight o'clock, or a little after; though I guess you can hardly be there so soon, day breaks so late; and indeed the mornings are so misty, it is not wholesome to be in the air so early. I do propose going to my neighbour Worsley to-day. I would fain be telling my heart more things—anything to be in a kind of talk with him; but, I believe, Spencer stays for my dispatch: he was willing to go early; but this was to be the delight of this morning, and the support of the day. It is performed in bed, thy pillow at my back; where thy dear head shall lie, I hope, to-morrow night,

¹ The birth-day of Lord Russell.

² Her son.

and many more, I trust in His mercy, notwithstanding all our enemies or ill-wishers. Love, and be willing to be loved, by

R. RUSSELL.

I have not seen your brother ; yet I wish matters go well.

For the Lord Russell.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

London, October 2, 1681.

Saturday night.

I HAVE deferred so late to write, that now I have little time to do it in: my intention was good, hoping still to learn some sort of tattle might entertain you, but nothing comes; yet Mr. Montagu is but just gone. Now the company is gone to Stockbridge, he has a little leisure to pay his civilities: he says Lord Cavendish comes next week: he has got 500*l.* returned him by old Devon,² as I understand. Your father went this morning; and Lady Margaret also. The King comes not till Friday. The ladies' quarrel is the only news talked of: Lady Betty³ lies a-bed and cries. Lord Newport came yesterday morning, and says he

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² To what this alludes the Editor knows not. See, on the subject of Lord Cavendish and his father, Lady Sunderland's Letters, No. 1. In Miss Berry's Memoir, p. 334. "Waller does swear and stare that he would have half his estate now, and will not make him a leg for it."

³ Lady Betty Felton, before mentioned in these letters. It is impossible

1681. never saw the King more enraged; he sent to Lord Suffolk to chain up his mad daughter, and forbid her the Court; so at present neither Lord nor Lady Suffolk see her; and little Felton¹ is leaving her. Our family, I thank God, is well, as you left it. I hear your cousin, Tom Newport, is very ill of a fever. Mrs. Pelham² is brought to bed of a fair daughter; so the sport is begun in our Square. Lord Shaftesbury had a good night: Charlton waited on his wife out of town yesterday: so that you are to imagine it a little dull in our quarters: it is not so to me at this present, but will be as soon as I have signed,

R. RUSSELL.

For the Lord Russell, at Stratton, in Hampshire;
to be left with the Postmaster at Basingstoke.

now to discover what was the "ladies' quarrel," or who were the other ladies engaged in it. Lord Cavendish is mentioned in Lady Sunderland's letters, as one of Lady Betty Felton's admirers and followers. She seems to have been *the* fine lady of her day. Her reign was short, for she died at twenty-five, the very year this letter was written, leaving an only daughter, afterwards married to John, the first Earl of Bristol, of the family of Hervey.

¹ Her husband.

² Mrs. Pelham was a daughter of Sir William Jones, married to Mr. afterwards Sir Thomas Pelham, created by Queen Anne Lord Pelham, in 1706.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

Stratton, October 20, 1681.

Saturday night.

THE hopes I have, my dearest life, that this will be the concluding epistle for this time, makes me undertake it with more cheerfulness than my others. We are very busy in preparing, and full of expectation to see a coach come for us: just at twelve this morning I heard one, was not altogether so welcome as Mr. Whithead will be: it proved Lady Worsley;² but Miss, who had me by the hand, would not quit it, but led me to her dinner, and told my Lady Worsley, I said I would dine with her; then she would dine there too; and Miss consented she should: so we took your table to my chamber, and pleased all parties, I hope, I being so, now it is over. I put her to work as soon as we had eaten. We laid up all your pears: I intend them to go by Monday's carrier. Your hawks we know not what to do with, but stay they must, I say, till we are gone, and horses come back; but your new dog, I hope you will think of, for what to do with him I know not: I have a mind to have him led along with the waggon; for then he will be safe going through

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² Sir James Worsley, of Pilewell, in Hants, married Mary, daughter of Sir William Stewart, of Harteley Mauduit, in the same county.

1681. towns, and Betty Forster may take care of him at nights; but I hope you will tell us your mind to-morrow, if you can think of anything but parliamentary affairs. I pray God direct all your consultations there, and, my dearest dear, you guess my mind. A word to the wise. I never longed more earnestly to be with you, for whom I have a thousand kind and grateful thoughts. You know of whom I learned this expression. If I could have found one more fit to speak the passion of my soul, I should send it you with joy; but I submit with great content to imitate, but never shall attain to any equality, except that of sincerity: and I will ever be (by God's grace) what I ought, and profess, thy faithful, affectionate, and obedient wife,

R. RUSSELL.

I seal not this till Sunday morning, that you might know all is well then. Miss sends me word she is so, and hopes to see papa quickly; so does one more.

For the Lord Russell; at Southampton
House, London.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

Stratton, November, 1681.

Monday, 10 o'clock.

I HAVE felt one true delight this morning already, being just come from our nurseries, and now am preparing for another: these being my true moments of pleasure, till the presence of my dearest life is before my eyes again: how I long for it, I will not go about to tell you; nor how I take your abusing me about my perfections: you should leave those things to your brother to say, when occasion serves. On Friday, he may know how soon he may be put to his best language;² for Wednesday is the day of trial, and the report to be made on Friday; but now we have choice of old and young. There is a young, handsome, well-natured, discreet gentlewoman, solely at the disposal of Mr. W. with 7000*l.*, a Lady Nines' daughter, here in the west. I name her, because possibly you may see somebody may have known something of them; and this coming by the carrier I thought it would make no discovery. I put a note into the box of pears last night, intending then not to write to-day; but I have no power to let it alone; and, as an inducement to myself

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² This seems to have been, either in jest or in earnest, some intended proposal of marriage to be made by Mr. James Russell.

1681. to make it more reasonable, I consider I need not send again to-morrow to Basingstoke, since you will have both on Wednesday morning; that is, unless there should be any change, as I trust in God there will not; so that look for no news by the post: if there be cause you shall hear. The pears, I sent you word how they are distinguished: all the south are in papers and linen. I am something discouraged as to good news, you having had Sir William¹ so long, and give me not a word of comfort; nor, truly, I found none in the news-letter, but increase of witnesses against Lord Shaftesbury. My service to the ladies that met you. Poor Lady Shaftesbury writes me word, she finds her brother² the same man. No fault must be found with the Ministers, though they feel the sad effects of their malice and cruelty. The carrier is ready to go: he promises, by twelve o'clock to be with you. Yours entirely,

R. RUSSELL.

Miss brings me her mite; but there has been almost wet eyes about it, she thinks it so ill done.³

¹ Sir William Jones, who had been Attorney-General.

² The Hon. Robert Spencer, frequently mentioned in these letters.

³ A letter from the child was enclosed.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD RUSSELL.¹

Stratton, September 25, 1682.

I STAID till I came from church, that I might as late as I could, tell you all your concerns here are just as you left them. The young man as mad, winking at me, and striking with his drumstick whatever comes to his reach.² If I had written before church, whilst my morning draught was in my head, this might have entertained you better; but, now those fumes are laid, I find my spirits more dull than usual, as I have more cause; the much dearer and pleasanter part of my life being absent from me: I leave my Lord Russell to guess who that is. I had a letter last post from Mrs. Lacon: pray tell her so, and that you had the paper about the King of Poland;³ for she is very inquisitive to know, it being so new, she says Charlton had not seen it. I know nothing new since you went; but I know, as certainly as I live, that I have been, for twelve years, as passionate a lover as ever woman was, and hope to be so one twelve years more; happy still, and entirely yours,

R. RUSSELL.

For the Lord Russell, at Southampton
House, London.

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² Her son.

³ This was, probably, a report that the Duke of York was to be made King of Poland.

LADY RUSSELL TO HER UNCLE.¹

1683. APOLOGIES, dear Uncle,² are not necessary to you for anything I do, nor is my discomposed mind fit to make any; but I want your assistance, so I ask it freely. You may remember, Sir, that a very few days after my great and terrible calamity,³ the King sent me word he meant to take no advantage of anything was forfeited to him, but terms of law must be observed, so now the grant for the personal estate is done and in my hands. I esteem it fit to make some compliment of acknowledgment to his Majesty; to do this for me is the favour I beg of you; but I have writ the enclosed paper in such a manner that if you judge it fit, you may, as you see cause, show it to the King, to let him see what thanks I desire should be made him; but that is left to you to do as you approve.

Truly, Uncle, 'tis not without reluctancy I write to you myself, since nothing that is not very sad can come from me, and I do not love to trouble such as, I am sure, wish me none. I ask after your health, and when I hear you are well, it is part of the only satisfaction I can have in this

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

² The Honourable John Russell, Colonel of the 1st regiment of Foot Guards.

³ The death of Lord Russell.

wretched world, where the love and company of the ^{1683.} friends and nearest relations of that dear and blessed person must give me all I can find in it now; it is a great change from as much happiness as I believe this world can give, to know no more as never must,

Yours.

LADY RACHEL RUSSELL TO THE LORD PRIVY SEAL.¹

IT is so much my interest, my Lord (relying as I do upon your Lordship's judgment and favour to me), to be careful in humbly acknowledging those I do receive, that unless you will be strictly just to me you will imagine this is sent your Lordship from other ends than, upon my word, it is, since I could never in expectance of a future advantage by it, constrain myself to do uneasy things (as doing this is to so discomposed a mind as mine), but to be kindly used, and not any way appear I have a sense of it, would, if it be possible, add to the intolerable pressure my sad heart mourns under; all other considerations would permit me to excuse myself from, or at least to defer an exercise I am rendered so utterly unfit for; especially unless I might complain in such sad words as my raging griefs fill my amazed mind with, and indeed offers me no other without putting a force upon myself, which being

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoirs.

1683. fit to do at this time, I ask your Lordship's pardon for what I have said, and in real compassion as to one very miserable you must give it to, my Lord,
Yours.

I think fit to acquaint your Lordship that I have written to my uncle Russell to present my thanks to the King, but have intimated in another cover that he may, if he sees fit, read it to the King, having written it with that design: if this be enough I like it better than doing more; but if your Lordship is of another mind tell but my Lord Vaughan so, and I shall know it before the letter be given. If it be seasonable to move in the other I presume your Lordship will not forget me.

I hear the Sergeant has been troublesome to your Lordship; it would be impertinent to trouble you with all that [has passed,] but I think I have not been to blame, for he demanded it only upon the account that I was to have the personal estate, and I promised him satisfaction when I had the grant.

LADY RUSSELL TO THE KING

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

I find my husband's enemies are not appeased with his blood, but still continue to misrepresent

him to your Majesty. It is a great addition to my ^{1683.} sorrows to hear your Majesty is prevailed upon to believe that the paper he delivered to the Sheriff at his death was not his own. I can truly say, and am ready in the solemnest manner to attest that [during his imprisonment¹] I often heard him discourse the chiefest matters contained in that paper, in the same expressions he therein uses, as some of those few relations that were admitted to him can likewise aver. And sure it is an argument of no great force that there is a phrase or two in it another uses, when nothing is more common than to take up such words we like, or are accustomed to in our conversation. I beg leave further to avow to your Majesty, that all that is set down in the paper read to your Majesty on Sunday night, to be spoken in my presence, is exactly true ;² as I doubt not but the rest of the paper is, which was written at my request ; and the author of it, in all his conversation with my husband that I was privy to, showed himself a loyal subject to your Majesty, a faithful friend to him, and a most tender and conscientious minister to his soul. I do therefore humbly beg your Majesty would be so charitable to believe, that he who in all his life was observed to act with the greatest clearness and sincerity, would not at the point of death

¹ The words included in the brackets are crossed out.

² It contained an account of all that passed between Dr. Burnet and his Lordship, concerning his last speech and paper. It is called the "Journal," in the "History of his Own Time," vol. i. p. 562.

1683. do so disingenuous and false a thing as to deliver for his own what was not properly and expressly so. And if, after the loss in such a manner of the best husband in the world, I were capable of any consolation, your Majesty only could afford it by having better thoughts of him, which, when I was so importunate to speak with your Majesty, I thought I had some reason to believe I should have inclined you to, not from the credit of my word, but upon the evidence of what I had to say. I hope I have written nothing in this that will displease your Majesty. If I have, I humbly beg of you to consider it as coming from a woman amazed with grief; and that you will pardon the daughter of a person who served your Majesty's father in his greatest extremities, [and your Majesty in your greatest posts,] and one that is not conscious of having ever done anything to offend you [before]. I shall ever pray for your Majesty's long life and happy reign.

Who am, with all humility,

May it please your Majesty, &c.

DR. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

February 2, 1684.

MADAM,

A fortnight ago I received a letter from your honour, which by its date, the 30th of the last, should have been near the same measure of time coming to me; and the reason why I deferred the

acknowledgment of it to this minute, was to have ^{1684.}
gained time to return such an answer to it which
should have been accompanied with a little treatise
suited to your circumstances: but the want of
leisure, occasioned through the destitution of a
curate by illness, and the consumption of my time
in correcting several copies of a sermon¹ sent me
from London with a great many errors of the press,
hath hitherto obstructed that design; and I have
now no more (because I will defer the cognition of
your excellent letter, freighted with divine thoughts,
no longer) than will serve me barely to name the
heads of those considerations, which, through God's
Spirit setting them home upon your heart, may for-
tify you with patience, to support your condition,
as sad as you represent it to yourself, and have been
pleased to do in pathological expressions to me. And
if they shall have any way this operation on you, or
dispose you but to that, I shall, upon your intimat-
ing so much, clothe these dry bones with flesh and
skin, and give them some complexion, and last of
all, after your use, to whom I devote them first, if
they may be made subservient to that of others in
the same or like case, make them public.² Those,
or at least some of those, I shall insist upon, you

¹ Sermon on Prov. xxiv. 21, 22. 1683. 4to.

² Perhaps his Discourse on Isaiah, chap. xxxviii. v. 1. London: 1696. 12mo.

"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live."

1684. shall find here annexed, with a prayer to be addressed to Christ Jesus, to enable you to imitate the admirable example of patience, charity, &c., he set you. But though this hath been long a coming, and comes maimed and imperfect, I hope it will not be the less acceptable to your Ladyship, or at least the less pardonable.

I am, Madam, upon the account you suggest, of knowing in what entire friendship you and your Lord lived together, most ready to acknowledge your loss of him, as well as your manner of losing him, to be very afflicting; and to allow you cannot have too deep a sense of it, while it proceeds from the value and estimation a wife ought to have for a dear husband; but then I must add, your thoughts may dwell too long upon that disconsolate theme, and so prejudice both your body and your soul, your natural life and your spiritual; for, as the sense is hurt with conversing too long with a vehement object, though it pleaseth the eye, for example, by gazing too much or too long on light, so may the mind, by a continued meditation on grief, though it is delighted with the contemplation, and the body so macerated as not only to be made unserviceable to the mind, but to render that so to herself.

This way I am afraid you offend; and then it is, when your thoughts have been saddened to a great degree, by a long fixation on the doleful object, suppose that they pass into black and dismal ones of

questioning God's providence, and a future state, 1684. the devil facilitating the passage, which almost seems natural, with his suggestions then.

And yet, while he is busy to amuse you with these, God's grace, as you most Christianly observe, powerfully steps in to correct them, by putting you upon humbling yourself for the rising, or his injection of such an impiety, and enables you to concur with that motion, in having a kind of hatred and detestation of yourself for them.

In this sense God brings good out of evil; and, as I remember, the devout St. Austin, in his Confessions, mentions this as the benefit of sin repented of. He means that it begets humility: and no doubt but God permits many exalted Christians in the degrees towards perfection, to fall sometimes into some gross, scandalous sin, to abate their more dangerous spiritual pride. I do not charge such imaginations as these, when they enter into your mind, but that yields not its consent to them as direct downright sins; nor are you, Madam, to do so; but however you are to lament them as you do, as the unhappy effects of corruption, and endeavour immediately to suppress them, and reject them with disdain.

Towards getting rid of such importunate, troublesome guests, you can take no more successful method than to transfer your thoughts from the sad object which occasionally excited them, to others; as first, to the making reflection on the emptiness of

1684. the world, when most enjoyed, in one respect, that it yields no satisfaction, and its fruitfulness in another, that it produces briars and thorns without number, to scratch and tear the mind. Hereby you will gain another important advantage. Wean yourself from it; and if you are so weaned, you may rather thank God than complain that you have been afflicted, even by the dispensation which makes you heavy, since taking him out of the world whom you loved most in it, hath quite taken away your affections towards it. But because this contemplation, by accident, may produce impatience, render you weary of continuing in a world of vanity and trouble, and where you want the desire of your eyes; you are, in the next place, as you do likewise practise, to ascend thither with your meditations where faith alone, and not reason, can mount them; I mean, place them on that happiness above, which is perfect, and not to be disturbed by the interposition of ill accidents, eternal, and not to be concluded by time, reserved for you and ¹

DR. BURNET ² TO LADY RUSSELL.

February 2, 1684.

I WAS just sitting down to write an answer to your Ladyship's former letter, when I received your

¹ The remainder lost.

² After Lord Russell's death, Dr. Burnet was, by Charles the Second's order, discharged from preaching the Thursday lecture at St. Clement's;

last, so now I have two upon me, and therefore I 1684.
hope you will be so good as to forgive the length of this. Since the bearer is sure, I will say many things on which I would not venture by the ordinary conveyance. I must begin with your last. I see I was not mistaken in thinking, I durst venture on saying, what occurred to me on a thing which in itself was highly good and charitable, but in such an age might, as I judged, not look so well. I can truly say the vast veneration I have for your Ladyship, both upon his account to whom you were so dear, and on your own, which increaseth with every letter I receive from you, makes me impatient if anything should occur that might be matter of censure. I know you act by noble and worthy principles, and you have so strange a way of expressing yourself, that I sincerely acknowledge my pen is apt to drop out of my hand when I begin to write to you, for I am very sensible I cannot rise up to your strain. I am confident God has not bestowed such talents on you, and taken such pains, both by kind and severe providences, to

and for a sermon preached on the 5th of November at the Roll's Chapel, on the words—"Save me from the lion's mouth, thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns;" which was thought of dangerous construction, because the lion and unicorn were the two supporters of the King's scutcheon. "I made no reflection in my thoughts on the lion and unicorn, as being the two supporters of the King's scutcheon (for I ever hated all points of that sort as a profanation of Scripture); but I showed how well Popery might be compared to the lion's mouth, then open to devour us."—Burnet's Own Times, vol. ii. p. 437. Ox. 1823.

1684. distinguish you from most other women in the world, but on a design to make you an instrument of much good; and I am very glad you intend to employ so much of your own time in the education of your children, that they shall need no other governess; for, as it is the greatest part of your duty, so it will be a noble entertainment to you, and the best diversion and cure of your wounded and wasted spirits. I long so much to see your Ladyship, and them about you, in this employment, that I hope you will pardon me if I beg leave to come down and wait on you, when the Master of the Rolls¹ goes out of town; for since it was not thought fit that I should go on with the Thursday's lecture, I am master of my own time during the weeks of the vacation; and I will esteem that which I hope to pass at Woborne as the best of them.

I will not touch in all this letter your deep and ever green and tender wound. I believe the touching of it in the softest manner, gives more pain than all I can say about it can mitigate, and therefore I shall say no more of it, but that it comes in as a large part of my best thoughts that God would give you such an inward sense of his love, and of the wisdom and kindness of his providence, and of

¹ Sir John Churchill was appointed Master of the Rolls, January 12, 1684-5. He died at his house of Churchill, in co. Somerset, on Thursday, 8th October, 1685, and was buried in the parish church there on the Sunday following.

the blessed state to which he has raised that dearest 1684. part of yourself, and whither the rest will follow in due time, that all these things may swallow up the bitter sense of the terrible stroke you lie under, and may possess you with those true and solid joys that are the only proper cure for so deep a wound. But I will dwell no longer on so dismal a subject, for I am afraid you dwell too much on it.

Now the business of the printer¹ is at an end, and considering how it was managed, it has dwindled to a very small fine, which one may well say was either too much or too little. The true design of the prosecution was to find me in it, and so the printer was tampered with much to name the author.

I have never taken notice to your Ladyship of the quick sense I saw you expressed in a letter to Mr. Hoskins on that head; but I had no sure bearer till Mr. Pordage went down, and it did not then occur to my thoughts. I hope you believe I have all the just and high sense of that concern that becomes me, and would have been very little troubled, though they could have²

¹ John Darby, the printer, convicted of printing a libel, called Lord Russell's Speech, made his submission this term, February, 1683-4, and was fined but 20 marks.

² The remainder of this letter is lost.

1684.

MR. GRIFFITH ¹ TO LADY RUSSELL.

1684.

MADAM,

Since your Ladyship imposes upon yourself the task of returning answer to such letters as these (where neither business nor ceremony require it), though a selfish (not to say ambitious) principle would put me upon writing often; that I might often receive the honour and satisfaction of such valuable returns; yet the laws of morality forbid me to give your Ladyship too frequent occasions of such unnecessary trouble. However, Madam, I can no longer forbear to acknowledge, which I do with all imaginable gratitude, my great obligations to your Ladyship for your singular kindness in accepting my former letter without taking offence at the freedom and plainness of speech I there used; which with some persons, inferior in quality to your Ladyship, would not have passed, nor the supposal of an honest meaning obtained an allowance for. But I humbly beg your Ladyship's pardon for putting this goodness (I presumed upon) to so rude a trial; though it has succeeded in giving me both a larger notion and a more indubitable evidence of it than I

¹ It is not known who this correspondent was. It is possible it may have been John Griffith, M.A., Curate of Edensor, Derbyshire, and Chaplain to the Duke of Devonshire. He published several sermons, one against the doctrine of Transubstantiation.

had before. I should not have believed till then 1684. that it could have extended so far to bear with such a rigid assertion as seemed to your Ladyship implied in my words, viz. that a constant sadness for a loss which can never be recovered here, is inconsistent with a state of grace. I am heartily sorry, Madam, for having unhappily let fall any ambiguous or unwary expression that might give occasion for that mistake. God forbid I should be so rash to assert or think any such thing. I confess I was puzzled to reconcile your Ladyship's reckoning upon being ever mournful here for the loss of a temporal comfort, with that hope of those infinitely better, immutable and endless ones, in the future state, which in some lines before your Ladyship declared (and I was much affected therewith) that your longing soul had a prospect of and waited for. Such exercise of faith and hope, I thought, must needs hinder that sort of sorrow from keeping a perpetual possession for life in your Ladyship's breast during life. I grant that after it is dislodged, it may get in again, and yet all this while the soul continue in a state of grace which we know is not privileged from changes, faintings, cloudings, and divers infirmities, whereof the best saints have had experience; though they are never without faith and hope, yet these graces may sometimes, through temptation, be at a low ebb; and then such grief may gain the upper hand for a time. This I suppose to have been your Ladyship's case at the sub-

1684, scription of the same letter. Nor are such sudden changes less incident to the inward, than they are to the outward man. An eminent instance we have in David, who in the same Psalm represents himself in opposite tempers, one while rejoicing and glorying in God, and soon after cast down and at the brink of despair; but still he recovers himself at last, by rousing up his soul to renewed actings of hope and trust. And as I find your Ladyship humbly confessing, with him, this is my infirmity; so I doubt not but I shall find your Ladyship revived likewise with him, by the same means through Divine assistance.

LADY RUSSELL TO ——— GRIFFITH.

Woburn Abbey, Feb. 4, 1684.

SIR,¹

In my perplexed state those momentary refreshments, if my afflicted soul finds any, are when I am able to apply such healing considerations as good and charitable men like yourself offer to my wounded spirit. I cannot receive so valuable a gift, and not tell you, sir, myself, that I take it thankfully, and will do my endeavour to use it profitably; but, alas! so inveterate is my disease, it seems to me above the cure of arguments; nothing but the

¹ Now first printed from the original letter in the possession of Dawson Turner, Esq., F.R.S.

mighty grace of God can assuage such grief as ¹⁶⁸⁴. mine. I have loved man too well, and did not weigh enough how short my interest might be in that loved object of my desires ; had God had full possession of my soul, or had I prized his love, adored his wisdom, and believed his goodness in all the secret conducts of his providences (yea, although I groaned under the sharpest dispensations of it), I should not be cast down ; but passion rebels, and I cannot with that constancy and frame of spirit I desire follow his steps in that thorny path of suffering he trod before me with so much ease ; this calls for the sharpest accents of my lamentations ; but I still bestow them upon the loss of earthly enjoyments ; our grosser part lying nearer to their more suitable objects in the mixed state of this world ; sense soon prevails, and by perpetual sharp and quick remembrances brings to my mind how full of content my mind lately was, and that I must never here know no more ; it is a bitter reflective, can only be allayed by seriously fixing upon that consideration you have lighted on to offer me, that whatever he did in his place he did it faithfully, as unto God, and upon that belief may safely ground a hope he was lifted from a prison to a throne ; then I know it is very unreasonable to take so heavily, that what was so precious to me, his gain, should be matter of so grievous and lasting a weight of sorrow to me ; but I must hope this is my infirmity, and that our High Priest who was touched with ours, will give me (who with my soul desires with

1684. my groans to mingle justification of my God) suffering grace, for a suffering condition, making his rod medicinal to me; and by giving a strong faith in the precious promises of the gospel, I shall one day be able to evidence to my soul, that they belong to me, that his rod and love have gone together, and, though sorely chastised, yet instruction hath accompanied correction, awakened and quickened me to make my calling and election sure, bearing up my evidence to heaven, where, after a few more weary days, we shall together enjoy the visions of God, ever praising him to eternal ages, without interposition of ill accidents; that I may prepare for this blessed change, and without undue impatience wait the time, and in the meanwhile attain such a measure of comfort as is necessary for a prudent and faithful discharge of my remaining duty to him, to whom I owe as much as can be due to man. Remember me, good Mr. Griffith, in your supplications to the Throne of Grace for suitable divine assistance to the miseries and necessities of, sir, your ever sad but faithful friend to serve you.

DR. BATES TO LADY RUSSELL.¹

London, Feb. 2, 1684.

MADAM,

I had some hopes that, after such an interval of

¹ From the original in the Duke of Devonshire's collection, printed in Mr. Wiffen's *Memoirs of the House of Russell*, vol. ii. p. 283.

Dr. William Bates was an eminent Nonconformist divine, born Novem-

time, your spirit had recovered some strength to^{1684.} resist the violence of your sorrow; but I perceive you are still very disconsolate. It is true your loss was so great, and your sorrow is so just, that to attempt the assuaging it by mere human considerations would be in vain; but it is not above the remedy which the Word of God offers to you. Methinks God speaks to your afflicted spirit, with a little variation, in the words of Elkanah to his distressed consort, "Am I not better to thee than ten husbands?" The extraordinary circumstances that exasperate your sorrow may, by Divine grace, be a happy advantage to declare your more entire and resigned submission to the wisdom and will of God. Consider—was it not, Madam, your most ardent desire, for your dear lord and yourself, that you might, at the end of this short life, obtain and enjoy together the heavenly glory? You have this consolation, that half of your desire is accomplished. Your dearest part has fought the good fight, has overcome the last enemy, and is crowned, and can you be so afflicted for your absence from

ber, 1625. He held various appointments in the Church of England. On the Restoration of Charles II. he was appointed one of his chaplains. He is said to have been offered the Deanery of Lichfield and Coventry. He took, in 1665, the oath commonly called the Five Mile Act, and was appointed on the part of the Presbyterians in the further attempt to render the Book of Common Prayer acceptable to Nonconformists. He stood by the side of Baxter when that excellent man was brought before the execrable Jeffreys. His works are collected in one volume folio, 1700. He published a work generally known as "*Batesii Vitæ Selectæ*," 4to. 1681, dedicated to Lord Russell. He died July 24, 1699.

1684. him as not to rejoice more in his felicity? I know that you, who so perfectly loved him, cannot cherish such a low affection, to be more concerned for your own temporal interest than to be pleased with the belief of his everlasting happiness. I have in my thoughts often applied to your Ladyship the verses of our divine poet:—

“The most of me to heaven is fled,
My joys are all packed up and gone,
And for their old acquaintance plead.”

There, Madam, let your conversation be; let your most serious thoughts, earnest affections, and the tendency of your life be for heaven, where you will be united to your most dear husband, by a love infinitely more pure and noble than that which warmed your breast here. I most heartily recommend you and your relatives to the Divine mercy, and am, Madam, your most humble and obedient servant,

WILLIAM BATES.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE received, good Doctor, your friendly letter and excellent prayers, indeed, very excellent ones; and although neither could have come too soon, yet I could not wonder they stayed so long. The rigour of the season¹ has been extreme as

¹ The forest trees and even the oaks in England split by the frost; most of the hollies were killed; the Thames was covered with ice eleven inches

ever was known sure in England, or in these parts 1684. of the world; but a little time of patience has carried us through all the inconveniences and hardship of it, yet not without very great and very sharp sufferings to numbers of the poorer sort; the consideration of which is a most fit contemplation for my sad thoughts, whose sufferings of another nature will have a like period; and, by faith and trust in God, a happy one, when I shall for ever (as is my hope my loved Lord is now) be enabled to perform the everlasting race of obedience, which here, by reason of those strong impressions things in this life of sense make upon us, is much weakened. But I am much encouraged by your allowing that I have a just sense of sorrow, and that you saw not my mourning so much to be condemned as you apprehended they were; it excites me better to struggle for my duty, than, when doing all I can, to think I do so ill, that I may have reason to be amazed, and fear a punishment in both states; but my merciful Father truly knows the sharpness of my sorrows, and the weakness of my person, not fitted to stand out against such storms; but with

thick; and nearly all the birds perished. Evelyn, in his "Diary," gives various particulars of the effects of this frost, and mentions, among other incidents, that a printer gained 5*l.* a-day for printing names of "ladyes" and ballads on the Thames, and that "London, by reason of the excessive coldness of the aire hindering the ascent of the smoke, was so fill'd with the fuligenous steame of the sea-coale, that hardly could one see crosse the streetes, and this filling the lungs with its grosse particles, exceedingly obstructed the breast, so as one could hardly breath." The only ever-green that escaped destruction in his garden was the cypress.

1684. his help we can do all things. As to the two points your letter, Doctor, insists upon, I will first say for myself, I am very confident I shall ever so take either the reproof, caution, or advice of a friend in such a manner, as I shall never lose a friend for acting the part of one to me, who shall make at least this advantage by finding such, that I shall be subject to the fewer deliberate follies; by sudden acts, I expect to be guilty of many, left to the trouble and distraction of choice alone, as I must now be. Therefore, good Doctor, let me engage you to continue the same way of proceeding, though I may not always comply with what you offer to me, yet that may be best for me, if I could discern it so. Now for the first particular concerning a chaplain, I shall not be untractable. I told you I could not live under my distresses without one: for the delay I touched upon, the distance of time now before I shall be settled, so as to require the use of one, will much take off my former objections; and as to the definition of a prudent person, you and I shall reconcile it to the same thing. I approve with you the Church of England the best church and best offices and services in it, upon the face of the earth that we know of; but, Sir, I shall covet one so moderate, as not to be impatient and passionate against all such as cannot think so too; but of such a temper as to be able to converse peaceably with such as may have freedom in my family though not of it, without giving offence,

and I take it to be the best way of gaining good 1684.
people to our opinions.

As to your kind offer of assistance, whenever cause for it, I shall ever use a freedom with you, Sir; but, in a fit return, remember an old proverb, "Not to spur a free horse too fast." Sir, your circumstances, and my heavy ones, may most likely render that unfit; but I shall not in appearance be soon in want, seeing my removes next summer will probably be very short. For having an eye upon any particular person, I must approve, and thank you for your kindness in it; but if you have, let it be so; the person may not know it, for this reason, several that had opportunities of seeing me often in my first extremities, urged my doing what you have since done: and to them I answered as I have to you. Now, if they have been mindful of my necessities, and have any person fit to¹

Woborne Abbey, Feb. 22, 1683-4.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

It is above a fortnight, I believe, good Doctor, since I received your comforting letter; and it is displeasing to me that I am now but sitting down to tell you so; but it is allotted to persons under my dismal title, and yet more dismal circumstances,

C

¹ Remainder lost.

1684. to have additional cares, from which I am sure I am not exempt, but am very unfit to discharge well or wisely, especially under the oppressions I feel; however, it is my lot, and a part of my duty remaining to my choicest friend, and those pledges he has left me. That remembrance makes me do my best, and so occasions the putting by such employments as suit better my present temper of mind, as this I am now about; since if, in the multitude of those sorrows that possess my soul, I find any refreshment, though, alas! such as are but momentary, it is but casting off some of my crowded thoughts to compassionate friends, such as deny not to weep with those that weep; or in reading such discourses and advices as your letter supplies me with, which I hope you believe I have read more than once; and if I have more days to pass upon this earth, I mean to do so often, since I profess, of all those have been offered me (in which charity has been most abounding to me), none have in all particulars more suited my humour. You deal with me, Sir, just as I would be dealt withal; and it is possible I feel the more smart from my raging griefs because I would not take them off, but upon fit considerations; as it is easiest to our natures to have our sore in deep wounds gently handled; yet, as most profitable, I would yield, nay desire, to have mine searched, that, as you religiously design by it, they may not fester. It is possible I grasp at too much of this kind, for a spirit so broke by afflic-

tion ; for I am so jealous that time, or necessity, 1684.
the ordinary abater of all violent passions (nay even
employment, or company of such friends as I have
left), should do that my reason or religion ought to
do, as makes me covet the best advices, and use
all methods to obtain such a relief, as I can ever
hope for, a silent submission to this severe and
terrible providence, without any ineffective unwill-
ingness to bear what I must suffer ; and such a
victory over myself, that, when once allayed, im-
moderate passions may not be apt to break out
again upon fresh occasions and accidents, offer-
ing to my memory that dear object of my de-
sires, which must happen every day, I may say
every hour, of the longest life I can live ; that so,
when I must return into the world, so far as to
act that part is incumbent upon me in faithfulness
to him I owe as much as can be due to man, it may
be with great strength of spirits, and grace to live a
stricter life of holiness to my God, who will not
always let me cry to him in vain. On him I will
wait till he have pity on me, humbly imploring that,
by the mighty aids of his most Holy Spirit, he will
touch my heart with greater love to himself. Then
I shall be what he would have me. But I am un-
worthy of such spiritual blessing, who remain so
unthankful a creature for those earthly ones I have
enjoyed, because I have them no longer. Yet God,
who knows our frames, will not expect that when we
are weak we should be strong. This is much comfort

1684. under my deep dejections, which are surely increased by the subtle malice of that great enemy of souls, taking all advantages upon my present weakened and wasted spirits, assaulting with divers temptations, as, when I have in any measure overcome one kind, I find another in the room, as when I am less afflicted (as I before complained), then I find reflections troubling me, as omissions of some sort or other; that if either greater persuasions had been used, he had gone away; or some errors at the trial amended, or other applications made, he might have been acquitted, and so yet have been in the land of the living (though I discharge not these things as faults upon myself, yet as aggravations to my sorrows): so that not being certain of our time being appointed, beyond which we cannot pass, my heart shrinks to think his time possibly was shortened by unwise management. I believe I do ill to torment myself with such unprofitable thoughts.¹

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

BELIEVE me, good Doctor, I find myself uneasy at reading your short letter of 8th April (which I have but newly received), before I had answered yours of the 11th March. I have several times taken my pen in my hand to do it, and been pre-

¹ Remainder lost.

vented by despatching less pleasing despatches first, 1684. and so my time was spent before I came to that I intended before I laid away the pen.

The future part of my life will not I expect pass, as perhaps I would just choose; sense has been long enough gratified, indeed so long I know not how to live by faith; yet the pleasant stream that fed it near fourteen years together being gone, I have no sort of refreshment but when I can repair to that living fountain from whence all flows; while I look not at the things which are seen, but at those which are not seen, expecting that day which will settle and compose all my tumultuous thoughts in perpetual peace and quiet; but am undone, irrecoverably so, as to my temporal longings and concerns. Time runs on, and usually wears off some of that sharpness of thought inseparable with my circumstances, but I cannot experience such an effect, every week making me more and more sensible of the miserable change in my condition; but the same merciful hand which has held me up from sinking in the extremest calamities, will (I verily believe) do so still, that I faint not to the end in this sharp conflict, nor add sin to my grievous weight of sorrows, by too high a discontent, which is all I have now to fear. You do, I doubt not, observe I let my pen run too greedily upon this subject; indeed it is very hard upon me to restrain it, especially to such as pity my distress, and would assist towards my relief

1684. any way in their power. I am glad I have so expressed myself to you, as to fix you in resolving to continue the course you have begun with me, which is to set before me plainly my duty in all kinds: it was my design to engage you to it; nor shall you be less successful with me, in your desires, could there happen occasion for it, which is most unlikely, Doctor Fitzwilliam understanding himself and the world so well. On neither of the points, I believe, I shall give you reason to complain, yet please myself in both, so far of one mind we shall be.

I am entertaining some thoughts of going to that now desolate place Stratton, for a few days, where I must expect new amazing reflections at first, it being a place where I have lived in sweet and full content; considered the condition of others, and thought none deserved my envy: but I must pass no more such days on earth; however, places are indeed nothing. Where can I dwell that his figure is not present to me! Nor would I have it otherwise; so I resolve that shall be no bar, if it proves requisite for the better acquitting any obligation upon me. That which is the immediate one, is settling, and indeed giving up the trust, my dear Lord had from my best sister.¹ Fain would I see that performed, as I know he would have done it had he lived. If I find I can do as I desire in it, I will (by God's permission) infallibly go; but indeed not to stay more than two or three weeks, my

¹ Lady Elizabeth Noel, who died in 1679.

children remaining here, who shall ever have my 1684. diligent attendance, therefore shall hasten back to them.

I do not admit one thought of accepting your kind and religious offer, knowing it is not proper. I take, if I do go, my sister Margaret, and believe Lady Shaftesbury¹ will meet me there. This I choose, of thinking some persons being there to whom I would observe some rules, will engage me to restrain myself, or keep in better bounds my wild and sad thoughts. This is all I can do for myself. But blest by the good prayers of others for me, they will, I hope, help me forward towards the great end of our creation.

I am most cordially, good Doctor,

Your ever mournful, but

Ever faithful friend, to serve you,

R. RUSSELL.

I hear my Lord Gainsborough and my Lady will be shortly at Chilten. She is one I do truly respect: I can never regret being near her, though my design is to converse with none but lawyers and accountants.

Woborne Abbey, April 20, 1684.

¹ Her cousin, who Miss Berry says was merely a good and pious soul, sensible of her inability to offer more than her pity and her prayers.

THE DUCHESS OF MONTAGU TO LADY RUSSELL.

Mar. ye 7th (1684).

1684. It is the saddest thing, my dearest sister, in the world to read your letters, by which one finds your affliction, if it be possible, daily to increase ; but, for God's sake, do not add to it by making reflections when it is too late, but as you say afterwards, consider it was God's will it should be so, and it is impossible when that is for us, for us with all our care and industry to hinder it ; and it ought to be a great comfort to you that you left nothing undone, either as to your advice or other endeavours, to hinder that fatal stroke. For my part, when I give myself leave to think of your misfortunes (which I confess I do as little as I can, finding it but too uneasy to me), I cannot but look upon it as the immediate work of God, that chose him out to undergo those severe trials for his glory ; for certainly never man suffered with more Christian patience the injustice of his enemies, by which he has left immortal fame here below, and without doubt gained a crown of glory in the kingdom of heaven, which ought to be your comfort. I am mighty glad your dear children are so well and prosper ; pray God continue them so to a good old age. I am much concerned dear Master had not my token. As for our coming into England we

have not yet the least thoughts of; this air, I thank 1684.
God, agrees perfectly well with me and the children, so that I am very well to continue in it; and for my Lord, he is so really affected with your misfortune that I think it has given him a dislike to his country, as will hinder him from returning till your healths are so established as that we may make the journey altogether. He is your very real humble servant. We have now the finest weather that ever was seen, which you will believe when I tell you that for this ten days I have not seen one spark of fire, only one little vine fagot morning and night to air my linen, and the sun is now so hot that I cannot bear going out in the coach till four o'clock, and in a little time, I believe, must leave it quite, for there is no shade in the country. I am a very humble servant to all the good company, especially to Lady Margaret. My dearest sister, farewell! pray God preserve you and support you that you may not sink under your affliction.

Yours, with all passion,

E. MONTAGU.¹

DR. SIMON PATRICK ² TO LADY RUSSELL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LADYSHIP,

I received your letter of the 11th instant, and,

¹ Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, married third Lord and first Duke of Montagu.

² A learned English prelate, to whose writings Lady Russell was much

1684. give you my late but most humble thanks, for taking in so good a part that poor tender of my duty and service, which in the sincerity of my heart I made to your Ladyship; and though I now find that there was no occasion at all for it, yet I cannot be sorry for my mistake, since I enjoy the benefit of it, in reading a letter which is so well stored with devout and heavenly thoughts.

I cannot read, without rejoicing, your Ladyship's submission to the divine Providence, in resolving all to this—That whatever you find will be best, and anything you could imagine would have been worse; nor without begging of God, in the words of David, 1 Chron. xxix. 18, "To keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of your heart." For, as your Ladyship cannot have a more honourable and worthy and just opinion of God, than to

attached, which will be particularly seen in the interesting letter, in the second volume, written to her children on the anniversary of Lord Russell's death. To the influence of the noble family, Patrick owed his appointment to the Rectory of St. Paul's, Covent Garden. It is to his honour that he never left his parishioners when the plague was raging amongst them; and it is said refused the Archdeaconry of Huntingdon, that he might not be absent from his parochial duties. "I am sure," he writes, "while I stay here I shall do good to their bodies, and perhaps save some from perishing, which I look upon as a considerable end of my continuing." He was one of the divines chosen, by Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester, in the controversy with the two Romish priests, when James was anxious to convert his minister to Popery. At the Revolution he was much consulted in settling the affairs of the church. He was made Bishop of Chichester, and finally promoted to the See of Ely. He died there in 1707. His paraphrase on the Old Testament is still greatly consulted, and "The Heart's Ease, or a Remedy against all Troubles," has a considerable sale.

believe that all he does is for the best, so neither¹⁶⁸⁴ can you entertain a thought which tends more to your own ease and satisfaction; for it is indeed the very secret of contentment. And sure there cannot be a more reasonable thing in the world, than to think well of what God does, and to allow him, who is the fountain of love and goodness, as well as of wisdom and understanding, to choose better and wiselier for us than we possibly can for ourselves. It is true that some particular providences look otherwise at the first sight, and we cannot so readily explain, and make out the benefit and advantages of them. The man, who in riding to a port to take shipping, and by a fall from his horse broke his leg, and thereby was stopped from his intended voyage, did not apprehend the mercy of that Providence at first, till he afterwards understood that that very ship was cast away, and all the passengers in it. In like manner we are often puzzled in beholding the frame and structure of this visible world; for many things which at the first appearance seem to be blemishes in the creation, yet, upon further examination, we find to be so very useful and beneficial, that we are forced to bear testimony to that divine approbation, which once pronounced them to be all very good. And so I doubt not, but by a diligent examination, we may give ourselves a very good account of the ways, as well as of the works of God, and discover such advantages and gracious passages in every affliction,

1684. as may force us to acknowledge that we should not have been so well without those afflictions, and that he of very faithfulness has caused us to be troubled. And as such sensible and experimental acknowledgments must needs be acceptable to God, because thereby we honour him, and speak well of him of our own knowledge, so, on the other hand, it is impossible for our minds to dislike that, which we cannot but acknowledge to be best for us, even we ourselves being judges. Your Ladyship's pious determination not to part with the hope of a future state, if all the glorious offers of this present world were set against it, is according to all the rules of prudence, which even worldly men themselves think fit to practise in other matters: for who will sell the reversion of a great estate for a present penny? or who, on the other hand, will not disburse his ready money for some very gainful improvement of it hereafter? And yet there is some proportion in these things, for the most gainful improvement is but the same money multiplied over again, and the greatest estate is but a penny so many times told; whereas an eternal happiness, and this transitory world's false joys, hold no proportion.

I intend to read over the same authors which your Ladyship names, and if your Ladyship pleases to impart some of your thoughts upon any passages in them, I shall value them as misers are wont to do their treasure, who envy sight of it to all the

world besides. Your Ladyship's discourse upon 1684. occasion of my Lady¹ Bedford's death I understand as an instance of your preparation of mind, and readiness to be dissolved, to be with Christ, which is certainly best for you whenever He pleases. But the continuance of your Ladyship's life and health, if God see it good, is so absolutely necessary to the support of your noble family, that I hope they will be prolonged, and for the sake of

¹ Anne, daughter and sole heir of Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, by his too celebrated Countess, Frances Howard, the divorced wife of Essex. Francis Earl of Bedford, it is well known, only consented to the match on the King's interference. "The health of this amiable lady," says the historian of the House of Russell, "had received a shock from which it never recovered; from the moment of Lord Russell's tragic death it visibly declined; and in musings on his manly virtues, and her own irreparable loss, she pined silently away, like another Anticlea, whose moving complaints may so forcibly illustrate her own:—

'For thee, my son, I wept my life away;
Nor came my fate by lingering pains and slow,
Nor bent the silver-shafted queen her bow;
No dire disease bereaved me of my breath,
Thou, thou, my son, wert my disease and death;
Unkindly with my love my son conspired—
In thee I lived, for absent thee expired.'—*Odyssey*, book xi.

"Yet her death is said to have been accelerated by another incident of striking pathos—the accidental sight, in a window of the Earl's study, of a pamphlet commenting on her mother's guilt, of which she is stated to have been till then mercifully kept in ignorance. The pang of this disclosure was too great for her enfeebled frame to bear, and, in the recoil of concentrated feeling, the chord of life gave way. She was found senseless by her attendants with the open page before her."

Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, who paid a visit to Woburn Abbey in 1732, looking at the beautiful portrait of the Countess by Vandyck, said, "I really fear if I had been a man I should have disobeyed my father, for she was both beautiful and good."—MS. Letters at Woburn Abbey.

1684. your children ought not to be shortened, so much as by an otherwise innocent wish. My master's education particularly, does plainly depend on your Ladyship's care of yourself in the first place, and then of him, for whose health I the more earnestly pray, because, with grief, I lately heard that he was ill, but I hope it is over before this. I beg your Ladyship's pardon for this tedious length; and therefore, as to the other parts of your letter, shall only crave leave to say, that your Ladyship ought to take comfort in the inward testimony of your sincerity, and not to be discouraged at any weaknesses that may possibly attend it, for that outweighs them all. I humbly beg your Ladyship to present my most humble service to my good Lord of Bedford, to whom I should have written upon this occasion, if I had understood that it had been proper for me, and that I should not rather have renewed his grief, and beseech you to accept of my hearty thankfulness for all your goodness towards me, who am,

Your Ladyship's

Most humble, most faithful,

And most obedient servant,

S. PATRICK.

May, 1684.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.¹

Woborne Abby, May 24, —84.

LET this, good Doctor, acknowledge the favour of 1684. your excellent letter, writ the 7th of this month; I have not yet had the occasion of profiting as I hope to do, from the instructions in it, in the time I expect to spend at Stratton; that journey being delayed first by the lawyers, and next, which would have done it, however, by the death of Lady Bedford. I would not choose to leave a good man under a new oppression of sorrow, that has been and is so very tender to me. He is a stronger Christian, and, therefore, does his duty in all trials better than I can do; yet since I may maintain there is no comparison in our losses, though it is, I can easily believe, difficult parting from a friend one has lived easily with near fifty years. Yet when it falls away, like ripe fruit that must be gathered, or if it remain hanging some time longer must become insignificant, sure it wants the aggravations of mine ever to be lamented calamity. But I must not, you tell me, give way or too much time, to muse, or rather to be astonished at what has happened to me. I do, and truly think do so sincerely. God's "will be done in earth as it is in heaven," but the interruption I find

¹ From the original in the collection of the Duke of Devonshire.

1684. is—was this his determination—had we not a free choice? yes sure we had, but it is as sure he permitted it, and there I must rest, and meekly submit to this most heavy dispensation. I do confess, and fear I have not thankfulness only for the blessings I have yet remaining, as if I could relish nothing but without that sharer of my joys and sorrows; but I pray I may, and in God's own time, shall be heard: he will not suffer the eye that waits on him to fail, and though he kill me, I will trust in him.

My Lady Gainsborough tells me they are all to be at Andover this month, and I hear my Lady Northampton and Dursey goes. She must contrive mightily to lodge them all. We have it, as news, my nephew and Miss Worsley will make a match. I shall not wonder if he likes her, for she is a fine girl, truly. I have not fixed my time, being once unfixed, yet I have fed my fancy with seeing this place, and believe I should be the easier after it. I took the opportunity of seeing another¹ lately (with those who performed the last solemnity to their dead mother) which I had as much bent my thoughts upon; though I concealed them till just I went to do it, which was about a week before I did. I told Lord Bedford my resolve, but as one I could not be diverted from, had ever designed it my first visit, so designing for

¹ Chenies, in the church of which her husband was deposited amongst the remains of his ancestors.

Stratton the week after, went there a few days 1684. before it. I think in two days after I told him and afflicted him, the thought I would do it; she grew worse, so foreseeing what would happen, I deferred it; but I have accomplished it, and am not the worse, having satisfied my longing mind, and that is a little ease, such degrees as I must look for. I had some business there, for that to me precious and delicious friend desired I would make a little monument¹ for us, and I had never seen the place; had set a day to do it with him not three months before he was carried thither, but prevented by the boy's illness. I must conclude abruptly or not at all, while I have paper to write one, but I will use no more of this than to sign myself your sad but sincere friend.

For my much-esteemed friend, Dr. Fitzwilliam,
at Cottenham, near Cambridge.

Leave this at the Black Bear, in Cambridge, to be
sent as above directed. Cambridge.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE received yours, good Doctor, writ on St. Barnabas's day, and must own, that although in those years my unprofitable life has been preserved, in this vain and wicked world, I have been made

¹ One monument in the style of the period is erected to the memory of the first Duke and his son Lord Russell.

1684. acquainted with many sad and mortifying events ; yet, I am too sure that great work of real mortification to the over-much love to, and expectation from creatures, is so very imperfectly wrought in me to this day, that I ever need such instructions as shall help to wean me from binding up my life and content in them, though in the best of creatures in their best estate : and very perverse it is in me towards my heavenly Father, if I do secretly repine at his dispensing to me that which my corrupt nature makes so necessary for me ; but it must be his free effectual grace that must perfect the work. He has called me to different encounters, and thereby invites me to stir up that grace he has put into my heart, and known to be so by him, though not by myself, or I should not be so tried ; that power who permits, if not appoints what I endure, having said, we shall not be tempted above what we are able to bear. He has been pitiful to my small grace, and removed a threatened blow, which must have quickened my sorrows, if not added to them, the loss of my poor boy. He has been ill, and God has let me see the folly of my imaginations, which made me apt to conclude I had nothing left, the deprivation of which could be matter of much anguish, or its possession of any considerable refreshment. I have felt the falseness of the first notion, for I know not how to part, with tolerable ease, from the little creature. I desire to do so of the second, and that my thankfulness for the real

blessing of these children may refresh my labouring 1684. weary mind, with some joy and satisfaction, at least in my endeavours to do that part towards them, their most dear and tender father would not have omitted. And which, if successful, though early made unfortunate, may conduce to their happiness for the time to come here and hereafter. When I have done this piece of duty to my best friend and them, how gladly would I lie down by that beloved dust I lately went to visit (that is the case that holds it). It is a satisfaction to me you did not disprove of what I did in it, as some do that it seems have heard of it, though I never mentioned it to any besides yourself.

Doctor, I had considered, I went not to seek the living among the dead; I knew I should not see him any more wherever I went, and had made a covenant with myself, not to break out in unreasonable fruitless passion, but quicken my contemplation whither the nobler part was fled, to a country afar off, where no earthly power bears any sway, nor can put an end to a happy society; there I would willingly be, but we must not limit our time: I hope to wait without impatience.

As to the information you require, it is not in my power to be punctual. I reckon my first and chief business is my attendance to these children, that is, their persons; and, till I see the boy in full strength, I dare not leave him, though but for one fortnight. I had fixed on the 20th of May, and

1684. from that time to this, good Lady Shaftsbury has been in a constant expectation to be summoned to meet me there, but Lady Bedford's death, and then the child, has kept me yet in this place. He has three teeth to cut, and till they be, I am apt to think, he will hardly recover full strength: they may do so in a week; it may be not in a month, as the wise folks say. This is the chief of my uncertainty; then indeed I depend on the conveniency (which I suit my journey to) of a gentleman, who hast most kindly and helpfully assisted me, by following my business for me, and whom I have engaged (as finding it almost necessary) to my affairs, one Mr. Hoskins;¹ I grew first acquainted with him at Lord Shaftsbury's, who used to call him cousin; he is a very worthy and ingenious man. Now he uses to drink Tunbridge waters, therefore I have sent to him if he chooses to do so, not to alter his course, for I can defer, as I have done, till he has performed it. So you see my uncertainties, but as soon as I am fixed you shall be sure to know it, as hastily as I can send the notice. Being more certain of the other proposition you offer me concerning a charity, what I will do in it, I answer to it more positively, Yes, I will, Sir.

If you hear how Watkins has provided for himself, you will be satisfied I have not been injurious

¹ John Hoskins, co. Middlesex, Esq. He died several years before Lady Russell. He left an only daughter Catherine, who married in 1718 William, third Duke of Devonshire, Lady Russell's grandson.

to him at all; I am within a few days made acquainted he goes to Lord Campden. He has given me notice a good while, that at Midsummer I should be provided, but really I did not guess where; he did not want my assistance to recommend him, and it seems Lord Campden was disposed it should be a secret, and so it was to me. I take it not ill from him, because I suppose he is not acquainted with the usual way of respectful proceeding in such cases. I wish, if he means to govern himself in so close a way, that he does no worse in greater matters, for I believe he will be an honest servant.

I have made this letter so long it is high time to break off, but first I must recommend my wants to your retirements, more than ordinary at the return of that time of year my miserable days had a beginning; which, though I suffer to slide away as easily as I can, yet I mistrust I shall not be able to pass, without reflecting what my dismal employment on them was.

I am, good Doctor,

With great truth, though great mournfulness,

Your faithful friend and servant.

Woborne Abbey, June, 1684.

Lady Northampton writes me word she is going to Chiltern; it seems they have left Titchfield with my Lady Gainsborough's great good-will. She must have great skill to make Chiltern hold them all.

EARL OF BEDFORD TO LADY RUSSELL.¹

Woburn, this 7th July, 1684.

DEAREST DAUGHTER,

There is nothing in this world can come so welcome to me, as to hear of increase of hopes, that God Almighty will be so infinitely good and gracious unto me, as to give unto my fervent prayers that dear child, which if it be his good and pleasure to grant to so unworthy a creature as I am, I shall look upon it all the days of my life as the greatest temporal blessing can be bestowed upon me, and that will supply and make up in a great measure the other great afflictions and crosses he has been pleased to lay upon me. Dear daughter, I look upon it as a good sign the holding up of his head, that the humour is gone, which I believe was the cause of the hanging down of his head. I pray Christ Jesus to give such a blessing unto the means, that I may have every day more and more hopes of seeing that day of rejoicing, in enjoying your company and his here again, which is the constant and fervent prayer of my soul unto my gracious God.

* * * *

So, hoping to hear of some comfortable tidings by the bearer of that dear little one, being full of prayers and fears for him and you, I rest with all

¹ From Miss Berry's Memoir.

the kindness in the world, which I am sure I shall 1684.
do to my last breath,

Your most affectionate

Father and Friend

to command,

BEDFORD.

My dear love and blessing to my dear boy and Mrs. Rachael. I am much cheered with Mrs. Karterine's company: she is often with me, and looks very well.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THE last letter I writ to you, good Doctor, was upon the 21st July; and I find yours dated the 25th; so I conclude you had not read mine. If you have not, yours is the kinder, since I find you had entertained a memory of that return of time my sufferings in this sad and dismal year began; and which indeed I could not pass but with some more than usual solemnity; yet I hope I took the best arts I could to convert my anguish into advantages, and force away from my thoughts those terrible representations they would raise (at such time especially) upon me; but I was so large in my discourse then, that it being possible it may have lighted into your hands before this does, I will not be ever repeating either my own sad story, or my

1684. own weak behaviour under it; but rather speak to the question you would be answered in, when I design for Stratton, or whether not at all? Truly, I cannot tell you which; since I move but as I am convinced is best in reference to my boy, at present with the care of his sister, the only worldly business I have in this perishing world.¹ You hear I am at Totteridge,² and why I came thither, and soon will know I wanted the auxiliaries you took care to send me: sure I did so; but it hath pleased the Author of all Mercies to give me some glimpse and ray of his compassions in this dark day of my calamity, the child being exceedingly better; and I trust no secret murmur or discontent at what I have felt, and must still do, shall provoke my God to repeat those threatenings of making yet more bitter that cup I have drank so deeply out of; but as a quiet submission is required under all the various methods of Divine Providence, I trust I shall be so supported, that though unfit thoughts may haunt me, they shall not break in importunately upon me, nor will I break off that bandage time will lay over my wound. To them that seek the Lord his mercies are renewed every morning: with all my strength to him I will seek; and

¹ Lady's Russell's children were Wriothesley, Rachel, and Catherine.

² Totteridge, on the borders of Middlesex and Hertfordshire; Lady Rachel resided here for a short time after Lord Russell's death: possibly in the house of Francis Charlton, Esq., whose name occurs in these letters—he was suspected of being concerned in the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion.

though he kill me I will trust in him; my hopes 1684. are not of this world; I can never more recover pleasure here; but more durable joys I shall obtain, if I persevere to the end of a short life.

I do congratulate your expectations, they being sure well grounded; but I wonder a little you should hesitate whether or no to be hovering thereabouts till the issue is ascertained. If you do not, I hope you will not baulk Totteridge if I am here, which I do not intend a day longer than the Doctor thinks it best. He is not averse to giving him a taste of Stratton air; but it was only touched upon the last day of his being here; it is so much further from the Doctor, and the Court will so quickly go to Winchester (when I am sure you will not think it fit I should be there) that I think it more likely I shall let it alone. If I go at all, it must be suddenly; when I see the Doctor next, I will resolve; and wherever I am, and in all conditions, sincerely continue,

Good Doctor,

Your affectionate friend and servant.

August 3, 1684.

I conclude the good Bishop¹ is well, because you say nothing to the contrary. I am glad of it.

¹ Morley, Bishop of Winchester, with whom Dr. Fitzwilliam appears to have been very intimate.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

1684. AT my return from Totteridge, I did resolve one of my first exercises of this nature should be to you : why it was not so, Mr. Taylor might have told you : I desired he would : it was his coming to you : and I judged the entertainment of him would be a better diversion to you, than a letter from me ; so I deferred it till his return. Whether the report you had, just at parting from him, of the good Bishop of Winchester's¹ probably hastening to the end of his race, which, without doubt, he will finish with joy, has called you sooner from your habitation than you meant, I know not : it may make this matter the shorter, but not prevent my best thanks offered for yours of 13th August, and for anything I remember, the 3rd also : but if the last was acknowledged before, I am in no error to do it twice ; yours all merit, every one of them, the acknowledgment of my whole life. As they help to slide comfortably away sad hours, so I persuade myself the consequence will be profitable through my whole life, how long soever the Dis-

¹ Morley, Bishop of Winchester, died 1684. "A very eminent man, zealous against Popery, and yet a great enemy to Dissenters, with a considerable share of learning, and great vivacity of thought." Speaker Onslow, in the note to the new edition says, "That his public benefactions amounted to above 40,000*l*. He left but a small estate to his family, considering what he might have done for them."—Burnet, vol. ii. p. 428. Ox. 1823.

poser of all things permits it to last; that it will 1684. have an end, every day presents us a convincing argument, by the death of some acquaintance very often, if not a friend: then what the raging war devours is matter of deep meditation, and more amazing than I will discourse of in this paper. But to me death hath come so near as to fetch a portion from my very heart, and by it calls on me to prepare against the second death, from which, by the merits of a great and merciful Redeemer, I hope my best friend is delivered; and having a reasonable ground for this hope, it is unaccountable why I must ever lament what I valued as my own soul is past all the difficulties of this narrow passage.

I find you have submitted to great mourning for the deprivation of a very dear friend, though you are more a conqueror than I, in the lifting yourself out of such depressions as my weak nature has suffered itself to be plunged into; but we are not all made to be strong alike, and I one of the meanest of God's creatures every way: yet it is his good pleasure I should be singled out in a calamity. All I have to do is to suffer his good and holy will, and I shall be exalted in due time, though not as Job, yet with divine comfort here, and joy hereafter. It is so grateful to my afflicted mind to run on thus, where I am free, that I doubt I give you true cause to wish I would use you less like a friend. I am sure I intended nothing like this when I took my pen to write, but in a short

1684. letter to acquaint you with what I have not yet touched on—my resolve to try that desolate habitation of mine at London this winter. The doctor agrees it is the best place for my boy, and I have no argument to balance that, nor could take the resolution to see London till that was urged; but by God's permission I will try how I can endure that place, in thought a place of terror to me: but I know if sorrow had not another root, that will vanish in a few days. Now, Doctor, as soon I had formed, or rather submitted to this advice, which was but just as I left Totteridge (for I hastened hither upon it, that Lord Bedford might have some weeks of comfort in the child before I took him from him) I took into my thought how the chapel should be supplied—so short a warning as I had given myself could never secure my being supplied as I desire; and I considered one of your order is not to be used as other domestics,¹ so that if unhappily I should have entertained one not agreeable to me, it would have been hard to have relieved myself; so I lighted on this expedient:—To invite an old acquaintance of yours to pass this winter with me, and if her husband, Mr. Hanbury, could dispense for some weeks with officiating himself at Botley, I would be willing he should supply my chapel; being at present unprovided; so I give

¹ Mr. Macaulay's account of the treatment of the clergy at this period is well known in his interesting chapter on the state of England on the death of Charles II. Lady Russell appears to have had a right sense of the manner in which they should be received.

myself this approaching winter to fix. I am sure 1684. he is conforming enough, and it will not be difficult to any if willing, to act that prudent part I formerly hinted, and at which you seemed almost to have some objections against; but I leave that for a discourse. I do not purpose a removal till the end of this month, if the child continues so very well as he is, and the weather be tolerable. My Lord Gainsborough and my Lady have invited themselves to great honours from the Court. My Lady writes me word, the charge seems to fright my Lord (at present) against another year. I admire her conduct to manage all that company at Chiltern. I hear my Lady Digby¹ is safely laid of a girl; the sex can be no disappointment to them, likely to have so many. I hope they are a very happy couple; then, I believe she does not regret the opportunity of being made a courtier.

The constant uneasy hurry I was in at Totteridge (which a little matter is cause of to so broken a mind as mine) made me forget to send the money for your poor children as I appointed; and since it is so, unless you order other, I will now delay the doing it till we meet, or I hear you are at London. In all places I am, good Doctor,

Your assured friend to serve you

Under all my sadness.

Oct. 1, 1684.

¹ Frances, eldest daughter of Edward Noel, Earl of Gainsborough, married William fifth Baron Digby, Peerage of Ireland.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

1684. I HAVE very lately received one of yours from London, and had one also from Cotenham since I wrote ; but I had measured your time to be at London so near, that I would not send a sad dull paper to wander up and down, as some did when you was at Farnham with the good Bishop,¹ whose present state you do in such a manner describe, as makes me feel at the reading (though it is not the first time neither) a lightness I am not used to, and by a kind of reflex-act make it my own in prospect. The consideration of the other world is not only a very great, but (in my small judgment) the only support under the greatest of afflictions that can befall us here ; the enlivening heat of those glories are sufficient to animate and refresh us in our dark passage through this world ; and though I am below the meanest of God's servants that have not in the least degree lived answerable to those opportunities I have had, yet my Mediator is my judge, and he will not despise weak beginnings, though there be more smoke than flame. He will help us in believing ; and though he suffers us to be cast down, will not cast those off who commit their cause to him.

I have, you find, Sir, lingered out my time here ;

¹ Morley, Bishop of Winchester.

and I think none will wonder at it, that will reflect 1684.
the place I am going to remove to was the scene of so much lasting sorrow to me, and where I acted so unsuccessful a part for the preservation of a life, I could sure have laid down mine to have had continued. It was, Doctor, an inestimable treasure I did lose, and with whom I had lived in the highest pitch of this world's felicity. But I must remember I have a better friend, a more abiding, whom I desire with an inflamed heart to know, not alone as good in a way of profit, but amiable in a way of excellency; then, spiritual joy will grapple with earthly griefs, and so far overcome as to give some tranquillity to a mind so tossed to and fro, as mine has been with the evils of this life: yet I have but the experience of short moments of this desirable temper, and fear to have fewer when I first come to that desolate habitation and place, where so many several passions will assault me; but having so many months mourned the substance, I think (by God's assistance) the shadows will not sink me. To one so lately arrived at London, and engaged, as I know you to be, I am too tedious, for one who desires always to approve herself, good Doctor,

Your faithful friend and servant.

Woborne Abby, 17 Nov. 1684.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

1685. You pursue, good Doctor, all ways of promoting comfort to my afflicted mind, and will encourage me to think the better of myself, for that better temper of mind you judge you found me in, when you so kindly gave me a week of your time in London. You are highly in the right, that as quick a sense as sharpness on the one hand, and tenderness on the other, can cause, I labour under, and shall, I believe, to the end of my life, so eminently unfortunate in the close of it.

But I strive to reflect how large my portion of good things has been; and though they are passed away no more to return, yet I have a pleasant work to do, dress up my soul for my desired change, and fit it for the converse of angels and the spirits of just men made perfect; amongst whom my hope is my loved Lord is one; and my often repeated prayer to my God is, that if I have a reasonable ground for that hope, it may give a refreshment to my poor soul.

Do not press yourself, Sir, too greatly in seeking my advantage, but when your papers do come, I expect and hope they will prove such. The accidents of every day tell us of what a tottering clay our bodies are made. Youth nor beauty, greatness nor wealth, can prop it up. If it could, the Lady

Ossory had not so early left this world ; she died 1685. (as an express acquainted her father this morning) on Sunday last of a flux and miscarrying. I heard also this day of a kinsman that is gone ; a few years ago I should have had a more concerned sense for Sir Thomas Vernon ;¹ his unfitness (as I doubt) I do lament indeed.

Thus I treat you, as I am myself, with objects of mortification ; but you want none such in your solitude, and I being unprovided of other, will leave you to your own thoughts, and ever continue,

Sir, your obliged servant.

Jan. 13, 1684-5.

My neighbours and tenants are under some distress, being questioned about accounts, and several leaves found torn out of the books, so that Kingdome and Trant offered 40,000*l.* for atonement ; but having confessed two more were privy to this cutting out leaves, the King will have them discovered. Till Monday they have time given them. You had given Lady Julian one of those books.

¹ Probably Sir Thomas Vernon of Hodnet, co. Salop, so created July 22, 1660. The title became extinct, 1726. He was on the jury against Sir Samuel Barnardiston, tried for writing some letters offensive to the King.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

1685. I RECEIVED your letter and papers inclosed, and I desire, good Doctor, you would receive my thanks for both, in particular that part concerns my immediate wants; and for the other you would give me the first sight of, and then the office of delivering it to others; which I did faithfully as you directed, and could not but receive an equal approbation. As you are kind in believing what thoughts I had entertained of you, so I assure you, you are but just in it. And I wish from my soul I may keep as steadfast to the truth, as I believe you intend to do: and as I doubt not that your strength will fail, so pray mine may be as firm under all trials our heavenly Father may permit us to fall, but not sink under I trust. Man passeth away, but the truth of God endureth for ever. The saddest state to a good soul will one day end in rest. This is my best comfort, and a greater we cannot have, yet the degree is raised, when we consider we shall not only rest, but live in regions of unspeakable bliss. This should lead us sweetly through the dark passage of the world; and suffer us to start at nothing we either meet, or our fears suggest may happen to us. I am sorry my sister Alington will not dispose herself to receive your compassionate visit. Pray God

comfort her with his Spirit working in her heart, 1688. that she may evidence to her soul she is bettered by affliction. After the first changes following our great one, all is silent; your friends are the rising men; Lord Ormond intends to be at sea by 10th March, but who goes I hear not. It is now in justices hands, the Chancellor and a Lord Granard.¹ Lord Campden is gone this day to Hampshire. Most are moving about elections. God direct the spirits of all men in so difficult a time as this. My Lord Gainsborough told me to day he is bespoke to give Lady Mary Compton in marriage to the Lord Dorset, and about ten days hence he goes to Titchfield. His son will be housekeeper, he says, which I was sorry to hear, but I must submit to sorrows of all degrees, with as much of that excellent virtue of patience you recommend, and with so pious a zeal, as I can attain, who am,

Doctor, very sincerely,

Your friend and servant.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

NEVER shall I, good Doctor, I hope, forget your work (as I may term it) of labour and love, so instructive and comfortable do I find it, that at

¹ James Butler, Duke of Ormond. James Forbes, Earl of Granard.

1685. any time, when I have read any of your papers, I feel a heat within me to be repeating my thanks to you anew, which is all I can do towards the discharge of a debt you have engaged me in; and though nobody loves more than I to stand free from engagements I cannot answer, yet I do not wish for it here; I would have it as it is; and although I have the present advantage, you will have the future reward; and if I can truly reap what I know you design me by it, a religious and quiet submission to all providences, I am assured you will esteem to have attained it here in some measure. Never could you more seasonably have fed me with such discourses, and left me with expectations of new repasts, in a more seasonable time, than these my miserable months, and in those this very week in which I have lived over again that fatal day that determined what fell out a week after, and that has given me so long and so bitter a time of sorrow. But God has a compass in his providences, that is out of our reach, and as he is all good and wise, that consideration should in reason slacken the fierce rages of grief. But sure, Doctor, it is the nature of sorrow to lay hold on all things which give a new ferment to it, then how could I choose but feel it in a time of so much confusion as these last weeks have been, closing so tragically as they have done; and sure never any poor creature, for two whole years together, has had more awakers

to quicken and revive the anguish of its soul than 1685.

I have had; yet I hope I do most truly desire that nothing may be so bitter to me, as to think that I have in the least offended thee, O my God! and that nothing may be so marvellous in my eyes as the exceeding love of my Lord Jesus; that heaven being my aim, and the longing expectations of my soul, I may go through honour and dishonour, good report and bad report, prosperity and adversity, with some evenness of mind. The inspiring me with these desires is, I hope, a token of his never-failing love towards me, though an unthankful creature for all the good things I have enjoyed, and do still in the lives of hopeful children by so beloved a husband. God has restored me my little girl; the surgeon says she will do well. I should now hasten to give them the advantage of the country air, but am detained by the warning to see my uncle Ruvigny here, who comes to me; so I know not how to quit my house till I have received him, at least into it; he is upon his journey.

My Lady Gainsborough came to this town last night, and I doubt found neither her own daughter¹ nor Lady Jane in a good condition of health. I had carried a surgeon on the day before to let my niece blood, by Dr. Lower's direction,² who

¹ Married Lord Digby.

² A celebrated physician. Lord Dover, in his note in the "Ellis Correspondence," vol. ii. p. 70, says, "His practice had been at one time

1685. could not attend, by reason my Lord Radnor¹ lay in extremity, and he was last night past hopes. My niece's complaint is a neglected cold, and he fears her to be something hectic, but I hope youth will struggle and overcome; they are children whose least concerns touch me to the quick; their mother was a delicious friend; sure nobody has enjoyed more pleasure in the conversations and tender kindnesses of a husband and a sister than myself, yet how apt am I to be fretful that I must not still do so! but I must follow that which seems to be the will of God, how unacceptable soever it may be to me. I must stop, for if I let my pen run on I know not where it will end.

I am, good Doctor,

With great faithfulness,

Your affectionate friend to serve you.

Southampton House, July 17, 1685.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

You cannot make so great a mistake, good Doctor, I know, as not to be assured I accept most kindly every method you take for the disposing my sad heart to be submissively content with my portion

most extensive, but had declined during the latter years of his life, in consequence of his being out of favour at Court, by reason of his Whig principles."

¹ John, created in 1679 Viscount Bodmin, and Earl of Radnor, died 1685.

here; and then to revive it to some thankful 1685.
temper by various reflections. I do not resist so foolishly as to say they are not proper ones; I can discern so justly as to know you do not err, Doctor, in the manner of magnifying your charitable respect, nor in the design nor prosecution of it; the virtue you chiefly recommend to practise is so beautifully set forth, it is as a burning shining light, and one is willing to live with that light. But my languishing weary spirit rises up slowly to all good; yet I hope by God's abundant grace, in time your labours will work the same effect in my spirit; they will indeed in less time on others better disposed and prepared than I am, who in the day of affliction seem to have no remembrance, with due thankfulness of prosperity. Your papers sure, Sir, are rarely fitted for the use of all struggling under the burthen of sin or sorrow, though by a singular and particular charity composed for my lamentable calamity, and as seasonably is this new supply come as is possible, for its first perusal by me. Since I unsealed your packet this very morning, the 21st July, a day of bitterness indeed, I seasoned the first minutes of retirement, I allotted on this day for prayer and mourning, with reading them, and made a stop for some time on those lines—"We may securely depend on the truth of God's promises, to this purpose, that a seed time of tears shall be followed by a plenteous harvest of joys." It is a sound I

1685. must hereafter be a stranger to, in my pilgrimage here, but that it shall one day belong to me is a contemplation of great comfort, and I bless God it is so; I must not in lowliness of mind deny the grace I sometimes feel, though faint are my best thoughts and performances as I am sensible.

So willing I am to hearken to arguments of consolation, and so convinced that yours are strong, that though the phrase seemed odd I read in your letter, that you would try to draw comfort to me from the cause of my sorrow, and administer it from the very calamity I feel; yet I did with much eagerness read on, and must acquiesce in much of it with you. You imagine that these late confusions have afforded matter of tumultuous devouring thoughts, and though not so well digested as they are in your letter, yet every clause in it I have tossed up and down.

And now, Doctor, I take this late wild attempt¹

¹ Duke of Monmouth's rebellion. Among the MSS. at Woburn Abbey there is a copy of a letter from the unfortunate Duke, signed James R. "To our trusty and well-beloved cousin and counsellor, Christopher Lord Duke of Albemarle," requiring him to bring in the troops under his command, and raised in opposition to us and our royal authority, and immediately repair to our camp where you shall not fail of every kind and hearty reception. The answer of the Duke is sadly mutilated. The following is all that can be deciphered:—

"I received your letter and do not doubt use me very kindly if you had me have given yourself the trouble of inviting is to let you know I never was, or never Rebel to my lawful King, who is James the brother to my late dear master, King James Charles the Second, if you think I am in the wrong and yourself in the right, whenever we meet I doubt not the justice of my

to be a new project, not depending on, or being ^{1685.} linked in the least to any former design, if there was then any real one, which I am satisfied was not no more than (my own Lord confessed) talk. And it is possible that talk going so far as to consider, if a remedy to supposed evils might be sought, how it could be found? but as I was saying, if all this late attempt was entirely new, yet the suspicion my Lord must have laid under would have been great; and some other circumstances I do confess must have made his part a hard one. So that from the deceitfulness of the heart, or want of true sight in the directive faculty, what would have followed God only knows. From the frailty of the will I should have feared but little evil; for he had so just a soul, so firm, so good, he could not warp from such principles that were so, unless misguided by his understanding, and that his own, not another's; for I dare say, as he could discern, he never went into anything considerable, upon the mere submission to any one's particular judgment. Now

cause will sufficiently convince you that you had better have left this rebellion alone, and not have put yourself to such trouble.

“ALBEMARLE.

“For James Scott, late Duke of Monmouth.”

In the same collection is a copy of Lord Ormond's letter to the Earl of Bedford, describing Monmouth's attempt, and its wickedness, and “who will not have many days to revolve and repent his crimes, and to consider from what happiness and to what misery he has brought himself and his innocent wife and children, a sad instance of the uncertainty of things in this world, and of the desperate and deplorable condition of man when abandoned by God, and left to the corruption of his own nature and disordinate passions.”

1685. his own, I know, he could never have framed to have thought well of the late actings, and therefore most probably must have sat loose from them. But I am afraid his excellent heart, had he lived, would have been often pierced from the time his life was taken away to this. On the other hand, having, I trust, a reasonable ground of hope he has found those mercies, he died with a cheerful persuasion he should, there is no reason to mourn my loss, when that soul I love so well lives in felicities, and shall do so to all eternity. This I know in reason should be my cure; but flesh and blood in this mixed state is such a slave to sense, the memory how I have lived, and how (as I think) I must ever do for the time to come, does so prevail and weaken my most Christian resolves, that I cannot act the part that mere philosophy, as you set down many instances, enabled many to an appearance of easiness, for I verily believe they had no more than me, but vainly affected it. As I began the day with your letter and the sheets of discourse both inclosed in one paper, so I conclude it with some prayers you formerly assisted me with. Thus, Doctor, you see you have a special right to those prayers you are pleased I should present for the same effect on your spirit, if a portion of suffering should be your lot, as you now wish on mine, which, after my poor fashion, I will not be wanting in, that am,

Sir,

Your obliged faithful friend and servant.

Southampton House, July 21, 1685.

M. DE RUVIGNY TO THE KING.¹

Sept. 1685.

IRE,

Puis que par une funeste accident je ne dois pas me presenter devant votre maiestie j'espere qu'elle aura la bonté de me pardonner si ie prends la liberté de luy ecrire; ie le fais avec un profond respect pour rendre encore une fois a votre maiestie mes tres humble actions de graces du favourable traitement que i'en ay reçue, et pour la supplier en toute humilité de croire, que ie n'ay rien presumé de moy mesme lorsqu' avec sa permission ie l'ay entretenue sur le suiet de M. Russell; qui suis ie? et quels services ai ie rendues pour m'imaginer de pouvoir obtenir de vostre maiestie une grace de la nature de celle que i'ay eu l'honneur de luy demander? Sire ie l'ay demande appuie seulement sur la consideration que vous aves pour la memoire d'un grand Chauvelier et d'un grand tresorier du feu roy votre frere, et pour celuy de votre maiestie avoient si etroitement unies, ie l'ay encore demandé, etant persuadé q'une action de votre clemence en faveur d'une femme et d'un enfant de quatre ans, pouvoit produire dans l'esprit du monde des effectes capables de convertir beaucoup de gens, qui peut etre n'ont pas encore toute l'affection et toute

¹ Copy indorsed by Lady Rachel, "My uncle Ruvigny's letter to the King just before he left England about September 28, 1685."

1685. la fidelité qu'elles doivent a vostre maiestie ; ce sont la, Sire, les veritable motifs qui m'ont poussé de vous parler d'une personne dont le merite ne vous est pas incognue ; i'espere sire de vostre iustice que vous ne me croires pas capable d'une si sottie presumption qui me rendroit indigne de l'honneur de vostre bienveillance, et que vous aurez la bonté de vous resouvenir que ie suis, avec tout le respect et toute la passion imaginable,

Sire,

De vostre maiestie le tres humble,

&c. &c.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

Now I know where to find you, good Doctor (which I do by your letter writ at my cousin Spencer's), you must be sure to hear from her who is still not ashamed to be on the receiving hand with you. God has given you the abilities and opportunity for it, and not to me ; and what am I, that I should say, Why is it not otherwise ?—No, I do not, nor do I grudge or envy you the pious and ingenious pleasure you have in it ; my part in this world is of another nature, and I thank you, Sir, (but God must give you the recompense), you instruct me admirably how to overcome, that I may once make application of the text, Rev. iii. 12,¹

¹ “ Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out ; and I will write upon him the name of my

and raise such hopes as cannot miscarry. The ^{1685.} great thing is to acquiesce with all one's heart to the good pleasure of God, who will prove us by the ways and dispensations He sees best, and when He will break us to pieces we must be broken. Who can tell his works from the beginning to the end? But who can praise his mercies more than wretched I, that He has not cut me off in anger, who have taken his chastisements so heavily, not weighing his mercies in the midst of judgments! The stroke was of the fiercest sure; but had I not then a reasonable ground to hope that what I loved as I did my own soul, was raised from a prison to a throne? Was I not enabled to shut up my own sorrows that I increased not his sufferings by seeing mine? How were my sinking spirits supported by the early compassions of excellent and wise Christians, without ceasing, admonishing me of my duty, instructing, reproving, comforting me! You know, Doctor, I was not destitute; and I must acknowledge that many others like yourself, with devout zeal and great charity, contributed to the gathering together my scattered spirits, and then subjecting them by reason to such a submission as I could obtain under so astonishing a calamity: and further, He has spared me hitherto the children of so excellent a friend, giving them hopeful understandings, and yet

God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is new Jerusalem*, which cometh down out of heaven from my God; and *I will write upon him my new name.*"

1685. very tractable and sweet dispositions; spared my life in usefulness I trust to them; and being I am to linger in a world I can no more delight in, has given me a freedom from bodily pain to a degree I almost never knew, not so much as a strong fit of the headache have I felt since that miserable time, who used to be tormented with it very frequently. This calls for praises my dead heart is not exercised in, but I hope this is my infirmity; I bewail it. He that took our nature, and felt our infirmities, knows the weakness of my person, and the sharpness of my sorrows.

I should not forget to mention, Sir, I did receive your papers and a letter I never had the opportunity to tell you of, dated 13th August; and another letter after that, where you write of your being in London within a fortnight; so that time slipping I know not where to find you, nor how I came to let time do so.

I know not if you have heard some unwished-for accidents in my family have hurried me into new disorders. A young lady my uncle Ruvigny brought with him falling ill of the small-pox, I first removed my children to Bedford House, then followed myself, for the quieting of my good uncle's mind, who would have it so: from thence I brought my little tribe down to Woborne, and when I heard how fatal the end was of the young lady's distemper, I returned myself to Bedford House to take my last leave (for so I take it to be) of as kind a relation

and as zealous, tender a friend as ever anybody had. 1685.
To my uncle and aunt their niece was an inexpressible loss, but to herself death was the contrary. She died (as most do) as she lived, a pattern to all who knew her. As her body grew weak, her faith and hope grew strong, comforting her comforters, and edifying all about her; ever magnifying the goodness of God, that she died in a country, where she could in peace give up her soul to Him that made it. What a glorious thing, Doctor, it is to live and die as sure as she did! I heard my uncle and aunt say, that in seven years she had been with them, they never could tax her with a failure in her piety or worldly prudence, yet she had been roughly attacked, as the French Gazettes will tell you, if you have leisure to look over them now they are so many; however I keep them together, and so send them to you, who shall ever be gratified in what you ask from me, as a recompense of all your labours: it is a poor one indeed, the weak unworthy prayers of

Your very much obliged servant.

Woborne Abbey, Oct. 11, 1685.

You say I may direct as I will about those papers now in my custody. I freely give my judgment, it is a great pity they should be hid like a candle under a bushel; as they are piously designed, they will carry the more effectual blessing with them into the hearts of such in whose hands they fall; and as I believe it is an excellent discourse, why should it

1685. not serve to excellent purposes? I could say more of my opinion concerning them, but truly methinks it is taking too much upon me; my modesty interposes.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

As you profess, good Doctor, to take pleasure in your writings to me, from the testimony of a conscience, to forward my spiritual welfare, so do I to receive them as one to me of your friendship in both worldly and spiritual concerns: doing so I need not waste my time nor yours to tell you they are very valuable to me. That you are so contented to read mine, I make the just allowance for; not for the worthiness of them, I know it cannot be, but, however, it enables me to keep up an advantageous conversation without scruple of being too troublesome. You say some things sometimes, by which I should think you seasoned, or rather tainted with being so much where compliment or praising is best learned; but I conclude that often what one heartily wishes to be in a friend, one is apt to believe is so. The effect is not nought towards me, whom it animates to have a true, not false, title to the least virtue you are disposed to attribute to me. Yet I am far from such a vigour of mind as surmounts the secret discontent so hard a destiny as mine has fixed in my breast; but there are times the mind can hardly feel displeasure, as

while such friendly conversation entertaineth it; 1685.
then a grateful sense moves one to express the
courtesy.

If I could contemplate the conducts of Providences with the uses you do, it would give ease indeed, and no disastrous events should much affect us. The new scenes of each day make me often conclude myself very void of temper and reason, that I still shed tears of sorrow, and not of joy, that so good a man is landed safe on the happy shore of a blessed eternity; doubtless he is at rest, though I find none without him, so true a partner he was in all my joys and griefs: I trust the Almighty will pass by this my infirmity; I speak it in respect to the world, from whose enticing delights I can now be better weaned. I was too rich in possessions whilst I possessed him; all relish now is gone, I bless God for it, and pray and ask of all good people (do it for me from such you know are so), also to pray that I may more and more turn the stream of my affections upwards, and set my heart upon the ever-satisfying perfections of God; not starting at his darkest providences, but remembering continually either his glory, justice, or power, is advanced by every one of them, and that mercy is over all his works, as we shall one day with ravishing delight see. In the meantime I endeavour to suppress all wild imaginations a melancholy fancy is apt to let in; and say, with the man in the Gospel, "I believe, help thou my unbelief."

1685. If anything I say suggest to you matter for a pious reflection, I have not hurt you, but ease myself by letting loose some of my crowded thoughts. I must not finish without telling you, I have not the book you mention of Seraphical Meditations of the Bishop of Bath and Wells,¹ and should willingly see one here, since you design the present. I have sent you the last sheet of your papers, as the surest course; you can return it with the book. You would, Sir, have been welcome to Lord Bedford, who expresses himself hugely obliged to the Bishop of Ely² your friend; to whom you justly give the title of good, if the character he has very generally belongs to him. And who is good is happy; for he is only truly miserable or wretchedly so, that has no joy here, nor hopes for any hereafter. I believe it may be near Christmas before my Lord Bedford removes for the winter, but I have not yet discoursed him about it, nor how long he desires our company; so whether I will come before him, or make one company, I know not; he shall please himself, for I have no will in these matters, nor can like one thing or way better than another, if the use

¹ The excellent Bishop Kenn, whose manual of Prayers is most probably the work alluded to.

² "Turner, Bishop of Ely, in a sermon he preached before the King, in vindicating the Church of England against the pernicious doctrines of the Church of Rome, he challenged the producing but of five clergymen who forsook our church and went over to that of Rome, during all the troubles and rebellion in England, which lasted near twenty years; and this was to my certain observation a great truth."—Evelyn, *Diary*, vol. i. p. 576.

and conveniences be alike to the young creatures, 1685.
whose service is all the business I have in this
world, and for their good I intend all diligence in
the power of, Sir,

Your obliged friend to serve you.

Woborne Abbey, Nov. 27, 1685.

I am mightily in arrear ; pray let me know what
and if I shall direct the paying it, or stay till I see
you.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THOUGH I never think the returns come too
thick, by which I have the advantage of conversing
with Dr. Fitzwilliam, yet I am not captious in
the matter, and would always have these favours
suit your leisure, Sir, which in so busy a life
cannot always be regular.

I had not stayed supplying you with new French
papers, but that I was doubtful how the last got to
you ; I hasten these whilst you are in London,
for now your engagements lie in so many places,
one knows not where to find you ; but still it is
in employments of the noblest sort, doing the work
of God ; and man being a sociable creature, and
of such a composition that the mind must be
acting, how happy is it when all this is done
conformable to duty, and serving to the best ends,
the salvation of men's souls ? It is having chosen

1685. the better part; and carries with it (I make no doubt) peacefulness of mind which excels the strongest delights of earthly enjoyments, where that is shut out, or rather not so fully enjoyed; for if we weigh temporal against spirituals, how light would that scale be to the smallest grain of spiritual comfort, though it were heaped with all the glories, fame, and wealth, the most carnal heart can wish for! The one satisfies the immortal part of a man: the other satisfies the depraved appetite. As buried as I am in earth myself, and ever mourning the loss of an earthly felicity, which if through weakness it exceeds I do bewail; yet, I reckon the sufferings for the name of Christ (if to have that honour be my lot), and the obtaining a title to an eternal inheritance in the place described, Rev. ch. xxi. and xxii., to be infinitely above our sufferings in these houses of clay; what I grieve the want of was such an one when here, but now glorified with the spirits of just men made perfect.

Doctor, I will take your advice, and vie my state with others, and begin with him in the highest prosperity, as himself thinks, the King of a miserable people; but truly the most miserable himself, by debasing as he does, the dignity of human nature; and though for secret ends of Providence, he is suffered to make those poor creatures drink deep of a most bitter cup, yet the dregs are surely reserved for himself. What a judgment is it upon

an aspiring mind, when perhaps half the world ¹⁶⁸⁵. knows not God nor confesses the name of Christ as a Saviour, nor the beauty of virtue, which almost all the world has in derision, that it should not excite him to a reformation of faith and manners; but with such a rage turn his power to extirpate a people that own the Gospel for their law and rule! How infamous to his fame is the one! How glorious to his memory would the other have been! But he is too wicked to be an instrument of so much good to his degenerate age. Now, Sir, I cannot choose but think myself less miserable than this poor King. For the vast numbers of sufferers,¹ the sound thereof is more terrible to those at a distance than the calamity of a single person; but taken asunder, the sufferings of any one, and those I have and do feel, are not perhaps at so wide a distance as it appears, theirs being heaped together; but, as you very well note, there is no state to be pronounced extremely miserable, but a state of sin, which will deprive us of a future state of glory, without a deep repentance, which I wish to all sinners. I hear our King has given leave for collection for those Protestants which have been drove hither. God make his people thankful for it.²

¹ By the revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

² "There had now been numbered to pass through Geneva only (and that by stealth, for all the usual passages were strictly guarded by sea and land) 40,000 towards Switzerland. In Holland, Denmark, and all

1685. My Lord Gainsborough and all that family, sent in here as they went by to Dunstable, last week.

I know you will use your power, and I wish you could prevail with my nephew to settle himself in a family of his own. I trust God will be gracious to the child of so good a mother, and incline him to what shall be in the end best for him.

Though I am in the country, I should call to memory you are in London. I do so, and therefore close this from,

Sir, your obliged

And affectionate servant.

Woborne Abbey, Nov. 1685.

The papers are swelled to a great bigness, but if you care for them in London, I will direct them weekly, though I may not happen to write; for sometimes indeed I have occasion to do so too much, for so heavy a mind as mine is. It is my present case this morning.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

WHEN I tell you, Doctor, this is the seventh letter dispatched for this morning, any one of

about Germany were dispersed some hundred thousands; besides those in England, where though multitudes of all degrees sought for shelter and welcome as distressed Christians and confessors, they found least encouragement, by a fatality of the times we were fallen into, and the uncharitable indifference of such as should have embraced them; and I pray it be not laid to our charge."—Evelyn, *Diary*, vol. i. p. 617.

which could not be omitted, and that I have still 1685.
before noon French dispatches to make, you will not, though I write but a few lines, believe I willingly decline the writing more. Letters of compliment I would lay aside for it, I assure you, if I had more time. Yes, Doctor, the liberty I take when I write to you, gratifies much more my weary mind, than the matter one fills up paper with to others; yet something of that sort must be, while we drag on here, especially when one has more than one's own miserable carcase to have a regard for, which, while my children are, I have, and with a diligent concern will I wrestle to support them, and make them great, or worthy to be so, who have been so early (by a special Providence) unfortunate. But who knows, says Solomon, what is good for a man in his life? all the days of his vain life? Yet there is an inseparable connection between God's wisdom and his will; so his work is perfect, for all his ways are judgment; and this is a necessary reflection at the astonishing changes of this age. If I look upon your letter, Doctor, I shall never end, but begin anew upon one part or other of it. Indeed that figure only of a man, if one speaks of him, engages to say a great deal: but I refrain.

I read a letter last night from my sister at Paris. She writes as everybody that has humane affections must; and says that of 1,800,000, there is not more than 10,000 esteemed to be left in France,

1685. and they, I guess, will soon be converted by the dragoons, or perish. So that near two millions of poor souls, made of the same clay as himself, have felt the rigour of that savage man. What you utter in a prophetic rage, I agree will come to pass. I have had reports of my nephew, but I will not proceed; yet I show you how hard it is not to do so, by

Your very affectionate friend to serve you.

Woborne Abbey, Nov. 1685.

DR. TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

Canterbury, Nov. 21, 1685.

HONOURED MADAM,

When I look back upon the date of your Ladyship's letter, I blush to see it hath lain by me so long unanswered. And yet I assure you no day passeth, in which your Ladyship and your children are not in my mind. But I know not how, in the hurry I am in in London, one business presseth so hard upon another, that I have less time for the things to which I have most inclination. I am now for a while got out of the torment and noise of that great city, and do enjoy a little more repose.

It was a great trouble to me to hear of the sad loss your dear friend sustained during his short stay in England.¹ But in some circumstances,

¹ The death of her cousin, niece of Mons. Ruvigny, mentioned in the letter to Dr. Fitzwilliam, p. 162.

to die is to live. And that voice from heaven ^{1685.} runs much in my mind, which St. John heard in his vision of the last (as I think) and most extreme persecution, which should befall the faithful servants of God, before the final downfall of Babylon, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth;" meaning, that they were happy, who were taken away before that terrible and utmost trial of the faith and patience of the saints. But however that be, I do greatly rejoice in the preservation of your children from the great danger they were in upon that occasion, and thank God heartily for it, because, whatever becomes of us, I hope they may live to see better things.

Just now came the news of the prorogation of the Parliament¹ to the 10th of February, which was surprising to us. We are not without hopes that in the meantime things will be disposed to a better agreement against the next meeting. But when all is done, our greatest comfort must be, that we are all in the hands of God, and that He hath the care of us. And do not think, Madam, that He loves you the less for having put so bitter a cup into your hand. He whom He loved infinitely best of all mankind, drank much deeper of it.

"The Parliament was adjourned to February, several both of Lords and Commons excepting against some passage of his Majesty's speech relating to the Test and continuance of Popish officers in command. This was a great surprise in a Parliament which people believed would have complied in all things."—Evelyn, *Diary*, vol. i. p. 619.

1686. I did hope to have waited upon my Lord of Bedford at my return to London; but now I doubt this prorogation will carry him into the country before that time. I intreat you to present my most humble service to his Lordship, to dear little master, and the young ladies. I am not worthy the consideration you are pleased to have of me; but I pray continually for you all, and ever shall be, Madam,

Your Ladyship's most faithful
And humble servant,
Jo. TILLOTSON.

LADY RUSSELL TO MR. THORNTON.¹

(circa Jan. 1686.)

I HAVE put up some papers, Sir, and I desire you will tell my Lord we are all well, exercising our French. Master sung a French song yesterday with music, but the girls are all silent. My old uncle is very hearty after his journey; he made all his courts yesterday to the King and Queen in the morning, and Dowager in the afternoon; he was wonderfully well received; he told me last

¹ From the original in the MSS. at Woburn Abbey. He was chaplain to the Earl of Bedford. Bishop Kennet states that he lived and died a Nonconformist. After the death of the Earl (the first Duke) in 1700, he resided with Lady Rachel. He had been tutor to her martyred husband. Several letters passed between them during Lord Russell's travels abroad, and are preserved among the MSS. at Woburn Abbey, where there is also a portrait of Mr. Thornton by Walker.

night Lord Herbury would be Chamberlain, and 1686. Lord Feversham have his Garter. I think of no more news, and to one whose thoughts are employed as mine eternally are, and from being so, no earthly thing can divert me. I have care enough on me to entertain my guests, though I meet them with much kindness, but the least busy life is the best for me; but at all times, I am, good Mr. Thornton,

Your faithful servant.

As Lord Delamere¹ came out of the Council Chamber he saw his brother, and bid him tell his wife he was sent to the Tower for words he never said, witnessed by a man he never saw. Rumsey² lies in chains.

¹ "Henry Booth, second Lord Delamere, and first Earl of Warrington, which title he received from William the Third, for his services in promoting the Revolution. His love of liberty occasioned his being three times imprisoned. He was tried by his Peers in Westminster Hall on the 14th of January, for high treason, and unanimously acquitted; the infamous Lord Howard of Escrick, and Lord Grey, were two of the witnesses against him. He died Jan. 2, 1694."—Lord Dover. Note in "Ellis Correspondence," vol. i. p. 3.

² Rumsey, one of the creatures of Lord Shaftesbury, and concerned with him in endeavouring to promote an insurrection in the city. He was one of the witnesses on the trial of Lord Russell, a man of whom Lord Russell had a bad opinion, and who was guilty of perjury at the trial.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

1686. I PRESUME, Doctor, you are now so settled in your retirement (for such it is in comparison of that you can obtain at London) that you are at leisure to peruse the inclosed papers ; hereafter I will send them once a week, or oftener, if you desire it.

Yesterday the Lord Delamere passed his trial, and was acquitted.¹ I do bless God that He has caused some stop to the effusion of blood has been shed of late in this poor land. But, Doctor, as diseased bodies turn the best nourishments, and even cordials into the same sour humour that consumes and eats them up, just so do I. When I should rejoice with them that do rejoice, I seek a corner to weep in. I find I am capable of no more gladness ; but every new circumstance, the very comparing my night of sorrow after such a day, with theirs of joy, does, from a reflection of one kind or other, rack my uneasy mind. Though I am far from wishing the close of theirs like mine, yet I cannot refrain giving some time to lament mine was not like theirs : but I certainly took too much delight in my lot, and would too willingly have built my

¹ Mr. Macaulay says, in reference to Lord Delamere's acquittal, " the public joy was great. The innocent began to breathe freely, and false accusers to tremble." He quotes this letter as one scarcely to be read without tears. History of England, vol. i. p. 41.

tabernacle here ; for which I hope my punishment 1686. will end with life.

The accounts from France are more and more astonishing ; the perfecting the work is vigorously pursued, and by this time completed, it is thought ; all, without exception, having a day given them ; only these I am going to mention have found so much grace as I'll tell you. The Countess de Roy¹ is permitted, with two daughters, to go within fourteen days to her husband, who is in Denmark, in that King's service ; but five other of her children are put into monasteries. Mareschal Schomberg² and his wife are commanded to be prisoners in their house, in some remote part of

¹ Countess de Roye, wife of Frederick Charles de Roye de la Rochefoucauld, Generalissimo to the King of Denmark ; his daughter, Henrietta, was the second wife of William Wentworth, Earl of Strafford. In the Ellis Correspondence it is stated, that " her husband was created an Irish Baron, that his lady might with the less difficulty, as is supposed, wait on the Queen's Majesty, and have the honour to be saluted by her, which otherwise she could not have pretended to," vol. i. p. 323. There is no trace of such a creation.

² " The Prince de Croy arrived last night from Holland, and Marshal Schomberg with his weather-beaten spouse by land. Frederic Schomberg, Marshal of France, and Duke of Schomberg in England, so created by William the Third. He commenced his military career in the service of Holland, and afterwards passed into that of France, where he greatly distinguished himself. He was a Calvinist in religion, and was in consequence obliged to leave France, upon the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, which was the cause of his present journey into England. He subsequently attached himself to the Prince of Orange, came with him into England in 1688, and was killed at the Battle of the Boyne * at the

* Buried at St. Patrick's, Dublin, with an indignant inscription against his heirs, for not raising a monument to his memory, and leaving

1686. France appointed them. My uncle and his wife are permitted to come out of France. This I was told for a truth last night, but I hope it needs a confirmation.

It is enough to sink the strongest heart to read the relations are sent over. How the children are torn from their mothers and sent into monasteries; their mothers to another. The husband to prison or the galleys. These are amazing providences, Doctor! God out of infinite mercy strengthen weak believers. I am too melancholy an intelligencer to be very long, so will hasten to conclude, first telling you Lord Talbot¹ is come out of Ireland, and brought husbands for his daughters-in-law; one was married on Tuesday to a Lord Rosse; the other Lord is Dungan: Walgrave, that married the King's daughter, is made a Lord.² The brief for the poor Protestants³ was not sealed on Wednes-

age of eighty-four. His 'weather-beaten spouse' was Susanna, daughter of the French Count d'Aumale d'Harcourt, who was his second wife."—"Ellis Correspondence," vol. i. p. 18.

¹ Richard Talbot, an Irish Roman Catholic, afterwards Earl of Tyrconnel. His wife was the beautiful Jennings of Grammont, sister of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough.

² Henry, Lord Waldegrave, of Chewton, married the Lady Henrietta Fitz-James, natural daughter to King James II. by Arabella Churchill, sister to John, Duke of Marlborough; he retired to France in 1689, and died at Paris the same year.

³ Evelyn says, "A brief was read in all churches for relieving the French Protestants who came here for protection from the unheard-of cruelties of their King."—Diary, vol. i. p. 626.

this duty to strangers: "Thus did the fame only of his virtue obtain more for him from strangers than nearness of blood from his own family."

day, as was hoped it would be; the Chancellor 1686. bid it to be laid by, when it was offered him to seal.

I am very really, Doctor,

Your affectionate friend and servant.

Jan. 15, 1685-6.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE received and read your letters, good Doctor. As you never fail of performing a just part to your friend, so it were pity you should not consider enough to act the same to yourself. I think you do; and all you say that concerns your private affairs, is justly and wisely weighed: so I let that rest. I acknowledge the same of the distinct paper which touches more nearly my sore; perhaps I ought to do it with some shame and confusion of face, and perhaps I do so, Doctor; but my weakness is invincible, which makes me, as you phrase it excellently, possess past calamities. But He who took upon Him our nature, felt our infirmities, and does pity us; and I shall receive of his fulness at the end of days, which I will silently wait for.

If you have heard of the dismal accident in this neighbourhood, you will easily believe Tuesday night was not a quiet one with us. About 1 o'clock in the night I heard a great noise in the square, so little ordinary, I called up a servant, and sent her down to learn the occasion. She brought up a very

1686. sad one, that Montague House ¹ was on fire ; and it was so indeed : it burnt with so great violence, the whole house was consumed by 5 o'clock. The wind blew strong this way, so that we lay under fire a great part of the time, the sparks and flames continually covering the house, and filling the court. My boy awaked, and said he was almost stifled with smoke, but being told the reason, would see it, and so was satisfied without fear ; took a strange bed-fellow very willingly, Lady Devonshire's youngest boy, whom his nurse had brought wrapt up in a blanket. Lady Devonshire² came towards morning and lay here ; and had done so still but for a second ill accident. Her brother Lord Arran,³ who has been ill of a fever twelve days, was despaired of yesterday morning, and spots appeared ; so she resolved to see him, and not to return hither, but to Somerset House, where the Queen offered her lodgings. He is said to be dead, and I hear this morning it is a great blow to the family ; and that he was a most dutiful son and kind friend to all his family.

¹ "This night was burnt to the ground my Lord Montague's palace in Bloomsbury, than which for painting and furniture there was nothing more glorious in England. This happened by the negligence of a servant airing, as they call it, some of the goods by the fire in a moist season ; indeed so wet and mild a winter had scarce been seen in man's memory" [that of 1852-3 was perhaps equal to it].—Evelyn, *Diary*, vol. i. p. 623.

² Mary, second daughter to James Butler, Duke of Ormond ; married William Cavendish, first Duke of Devonshire, K.G.

³ Richard, created Earl of Arran, 1662.

Thus we see what a day brings forth ! and how 1686.
momentary the things we set our hearts upon !
O ! I could heartily cry out, When will longed-for
eternity come ! But our duty is to possess our
souls with patience.

I am unwilling to shake off all hopes about the
brief, though I know them that went to the Chan-
cellor¹ since the refusal to seal it, and his answer
does not encourage one's hopes. But he is not a
lover of smooth language ; so in that respect we
may not so soon despair.²

I fancy I saw the young man you mentioned to
me about my son. One brought me six prayer-
books as from you ; also distributed three or four in
the house. I sent for him, and asked if there was
no mistake ? He said, No. And after some other
questions I concluded him the same person. Doctor,
I do assure you I put an entire trust in your sin-
cerity to advise ; but, as I told you, I shall ever
take Lord Bedford along in all the concerns of the
child. He thinks it early yet to put him to learn

¹ The too notorious George, Lord Jeffreys.

² Doctor, afterwards Bishop, Beveridge, objected to the reading the
brief in the cathedral of Canterbury, as contrary to the Rubric. Tillotson
replied, " Doctor, Doctor, charity is above rubrics."—Birch.

Evelyn says, " The brief had been long expected, and at last was with
difficulty procured to be published, the interest of the French Ambassador
obstructing it."—" James was determined not to tolerate declamations
against his religion and his ally. The Archbishop of Canterbury was
therefore commanded to inform the clergy that they must merely read the
brief, and must not presume to preach on the sufferings of the French Pro-
testants."—Macaulay's " England," vol. ii. p. 79.

1686. in earnest ; so do you, I believe. My Lord is afraid if we take one for it, he will put him to it ; yet I think perhaps to overcome my Lord in that, and assure him he shall not be pressed. But I am much advised, and indeed inclined, if I could be fitted to my mind, to take a Frenchman, so I shall do a charity, and profit the child also, who should learn French. Here are many scholars come over, as are of all kinds, God knows.

I have still a charge with me, Lady Devonshire's daughter, who is just come into my chamber, so must break off,

I am, Sir, truly,

Your faithful servant.

January 22, 1685-6.

The young lady tells me Lord Arran¹ is not dead, but rather better.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I INTENDED you, good Doctor, a letter before I left Windsor, but I question if it succeeded, for the day I sent it to the coach, that was newly gone ; and the next you was gone, I believe. However, the French papers were the greatest loss ; so it is pretty indifferent how it fell out ; if a like fate

¹ Lord Arran died January 25. He died with great suffering, and appears to have been much lamented. See "Ellis Correspondence," vol. i. p. 33.

befalls this, it will be of a like consequence, setting 1686.
aside the information I write this on purpose to
give you, which is—I have just dated my letter to
my Lady Digby, of Coles-Hill, writ in answer to
hers, by which she desires me, in pursuance of a
dying brother's advice, and her son's inclination, to
propose to Lord Gainsborough a marriage between
the present Lord ¹ and Lady Jane. I have done it;
though I wish she had made choice of any other
person than myself, who desiring to know the world
no more, am utterly unfitted for the management of
anything in it, but must, as I can, engage in such
necessary offices to my children, as I cannot be dis-
pensed from, nor desire to be, since it is an eternal
obligation upon me, to the memory of a husband,
to whom, and his, I have dedicated the few and sad
remainder of my days, in this vale of misery and
trouble. But to suspend this and hasten my report:
the proposition is accepted; my Lord declares him-
self willing to do all he can for his children; he
offers 8,000*l.* paid as with the last, and leaves out
the 2,000*l.* coming back if Lord Campden should
happen to die. I believe Lord Digby and his mo-
ther will be soon in town. My sister Alington
came to Bedford House three or four days ago.
Lord Northampton's great match is crossed; and

¹ William, fifth Lord Digby. He married Jane, second daughter to Edward, Earl of Gainsborough, and died November, 1752, aged ninety years nine months.

1686. now the Lord Mulgrave¹ is an attendant on her person; he went down in great equipage a week

¹ Lord Mulgrave, John Sheffield, afterwards Duke of Buckingham, married, first, Ursula, daughter of Colonel Stowel, widow of the Earl of Conway; second, Catherine, daughter of Fulke Grevile, Lord Brooke, widow of Baptist, Earl of Gainsborough; third, the Lady Catharine Darnley (natural daughter to King James II. by Catharine Sedley) who was the widow of James Annesley, Earl of Anglesey, from whom she was separated by Act of Parliament, for his cruel and causeless ill-usage. Horace Walpole in his "Catalogue of Noble Authors," says, "The Life of this Peer takes up fourteen pages and a half in folio, in the General Dictionary, where it has little pretensions to occupy a couple. But his pious relict was always purchasing places for him, herself, and their son,* in every suburb of the Temple of Fame; a tenure against which, of all others, *quo warrantos* are sure to take place. The author of the article in the Dictionary calls the Duke one of the most beautiful prose writers and greatest poets of this age, which is also, he says, proved by the finest writers his contemporaries,†—certificates that have little weight where the merit is not proved by the author's own works. It is certain that his graver compositions in prose have nothing extraordinary in them; his poetry is most indifferent; and the greatest part of both is already fallen into total neglect."

* Buried in Westminster Abbey, with a laudatory epitaph by Pope.

† "Muse! 't is enough! at length thy labour ends,
And thou shalt live; for Buckingham commends—
This more than pays whole years of thankless pain;
Time, health, and fortune, are not lost in vain.
Sheffield approves: consenting Phœbus bends,
And I and malice from this hour are friends."

POPE.

Swift is very severe upon him. See Sir Walter Scott's notes in his edition of Dryden's Works, where the poet calls him—

— "The Muse's friend,
Himself a muse. In Sanadrin's debate,
True to his Prince, but not a slave of State."

Abs. and Achit.

past. Lord Northampton challenged Seymour, but 1686. he does not use to fight, so that matter rests. I expect my old uncle Ruvigny and his family in two or three days. Doctor, I must not choose my entertainments, so can continue this no longer, but ever continue

Your faithful friend and servant.

Feb. 15, 1685-6.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

WITH my best respects, good Doctor, I send you the Gazettes. I take the town to be very barren of news, but I was out of it yesterday at Greenwich to see my old uncle Ruvigny,¹ so know the less. It is concluded the Princess is with child. The Duke of Berwick is ill of the small-pox, and likely to be very ill with them; it will be the flux-pox, the doctors say. The intercourses between England and Holland do not look calm, nor give content. Mr. Talmidg² has a regiment there, and a privy seal from hence; but I think he will not

¹ "I went to visit the Marquess Ruvigné, now my neighbour at Greenwich, retired from the persecution in France. He was the Deputy of all the Protestants of that Kingdom in the Parliament of Paris, and several times Ambassador in this and other Courts: a person of great learning and experience."—Evelyn.

² Most probably Thomas Talmash, afterwards a General, second son of Elizabeth, Countess of Dysart, killed at Brest, 1695.*

* "Back to his native soil conveyed
His drooping head he on her bosom laid,

1686. feel the seizure can be made, so he will stand by his regiment. We talk of a parliament just as men feel agues, once in so many days. Now it is to be in May; it is thought that will wear off. The Earl of Bolingbroke is dead;¹ he died in a boat, as he lived.

Lady Gainsborough sends me word her Lord mends still. Lady Campden's woman is in town to furnish lying-in things; I had the favour to have her come and give me a compliment on her Lady's part. I am glad when they remember to do civil things for their own sakes; but I a little wonder he has not been to see his father. My sister Alington is coming to town presently.

I have told my news, and now must yield to a less liked employment, being called upon to a little business.

Your obliged friend and servant.

March 23, 1685-6.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR letter lies before me, Doctor, but I dare not read it over, it would furnish me with so much to say, and I must not take time to do it; the low-

¹ Oliver, second Earl—the peerage states that he died in 1688.

And in her service wasted, yet untir'd,
As fearless as he liv'd, expir'd,
And for the breath she gave too largely paid."

Poems on State Affairs, vol. iv. p. 404.

ness of my spirits, and the sadness of my constant 1686. thoughts, make me fancy myself hurried with some of my own pitiful affairs, and the entertaining my sister, who came to me this day se'nnight.

The present temper of your mind appears so suitable to what mine ever must remain, that I could talk and not fear to give new oppressions to your mind so tendered with the loss of an excellent friend, and man. You carefully and religiously prescribe yourself limits and bounds to your lamentations; but I would willingly observe if you exceed them not; so natural it is to spy out the faults and infirmities of others, as if we had reason to think the better of ourselves for the charging others. But I will not run on; leave you to the French prints. As to English news, I have none would serve the purpose I would have it, which is to divert your thoughts so touchingly fixed upon mortifying objects, but I hear of no other.

The disposers of the brief-money met the first time yesterday; I am told the Chancellor carried it in a manner he sent away many with sad hearts, he concluded so strictly on the qualifications of such as were to partake of the charity: I think he would admit none to receive of it, that did not take the sacrament from his own chaplain. I doubt not you will be better informed than I can do it.

1686. The reports from France are still the worst • that can be. Duc de la Force is thrust into a convent, to be vexed till he will change. At home I fear no amicable composition of the disaster between Lord D—— and my sister. My mean endeavours must not be wanting, and that indeed employs my time and thoughts, there being few days to determine that matter in, the term beginning so soon. Her being here keeps me from Stratton, where I proposed to be the end of this month. But God does not dispose of things and persons as we form designs.

I am, Sir,

Your affectionate servant.

April 14, 1686.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR letter, Sir, dated June 27, and sheets of paper that accompanied it, found me at Woborne; by a letter from sister Alington, I understood you were with her that very day, and had completed your intention towards her, as you have most admirably your pious one towards distressed me; for which the world may hereafter stand indebted to my uncommon sad fate, for all that good they may share out of it. It is most certain, if you give me the power you speak of, I dare

not deprive this wanting generation of so rich a supply, when I may have the dispensing of it. Your errors, Doctor, would be others' perfections: for I must believe your being master of very much matter, gives a vast advantage over others: yet I allow a cause of some trouble to yourself, by restraining that flux of words and notions that flow so fast from you; but it is a rare excellency when the pain is more to refuse than choose. I cannot tell, Doctor, whether your papers met me in a better temper now than at some other times to relish them; yet sure I esteem these sheets to be so fine, that it brought into my mind the loss you have lately sustained of a much-loved friend; and to conclude, that a new experience of grief had, in your struggles to overcome all unfit discontent, raised your fancy to the highest pitch of framing arguments against it: it is a happy effect of sorrow, and a sure evidence to the soul, that the promises of the Holy Word belong to her; that the work of grace is apt, and grows towards those degrees, where, when we arrive, we shall triumph over imperfections, and our wills desire nothing but what shall please God. We shall, as your phrase is, be renewed like eagles; and we, like eagles, mount up to meet the Lord coming in the clouds, and ever tarry with Him, and be no more faint or weary in God's service. These are ravishing contemplations, Doctor! They clasp

1686. the heart with delight for such moments, or, to say more truly, part of a moment, that the soul is so well fixed. It is true, we can (you are sure) bear the occasions of grief without being sunk and drowned in those passions; but to bear them without a murmuring heart then is the task, and in failing there lies the sin. O Lord, lay it not to the charge of thy weak servant; but make me cheerfully thankful that I had such a friend to lose; and contented that he has had dismissal from his attendance here (an expression you use I am much pleased with). When my time comes that I shall have mine, I know not how it will find me then; but I am sure it is my best reviving thought now; when I am plunged in multitudes of wild and sad thoughts, I recover and recollect a little time will end this life, and begin a better that shall never end, and where we shall discover the reasons and ends of all those seeming severe providences we have known. Thus I seem to long for the last day, and yet it is possible if sickness, or any other forerunner of our dissolution were present, I would defer it if I could; so deceitful are our hearts, or so weak is our faith. But I think, one may argue again, that God has wisely implanted in our nature a shrinking at the approach of a separation; and that may make us content, if not desire a delay. If it were not so implanted there, many would

not endure the evils of life, that now do it, though 1686. they are taught duty that obliges us thereto.

I know, Sir, I am very tedious; and if it be impertinent, I know also you will take it as if it were not so. Now I take this freedom scarce with anybody else: but it is a great indulgence to myself, and I am very certain you are pleased I should use it. I find it most especially useful on the return of these my saddest days, when dismal and yet astonishing remembrances crowd fastest into my mind: however, I shall, by God's goodness to me, stick close to those helps you have provided me, and read every day these new sheets, till the bitterest of all be past. On Tuesday, my sister Alington designs to be here; I am sorry it happens to be just that day, since I affect nothing that is particular or singular; but as yet I have not seen anybody besides my children on that day, being 13th July; nor does it seem decent for me to do it, almost, when I remember the sad scene I saw and attended at all that day, and the miserable accidents of it, as the unfortunate end of Lord Essex, to me so fatal, if the Duchess of Portsmouth told me true: that they said the jury could not have condemned my Lord, if my Lord Essex had not died as he did.

But I will do as I can: I hope she will not misconstrue what I shall do. I am sure I will

1686. never fail to her (by God's grace), because I know how tenderly he loved her, though I am apt to think now, she returned it not in love to a degree I once thought she had for him, and that sure he merited from her. But we are not loved most always by those we love best: she is very engaging where and when she pleases; but enough of this.

I will make no answer to that part of your letter, where you express some resentment at the joining hands by another than yourself. I had no part in it, but the disappointment of not seeing Doctor Fitz. on a day I thought I should. When I heard who was to do it, I did conclude they thought the Dean would be disoblged by laying him aside, being in his parish. I let pass the misfortunes fallen on another Dean, or rather on his parishioners; but God is the supreme pastor, who still lives, and to Him we may still go, should we be bereaved of all others.

I hear by my sister Montagu¹ she found a sickly family at Paris; her daughter in a languishing condition, worn to nothing almost with a fever, which has hung about her for these last six weeks; the doctors apprehend a hectic, but youth, I hope, will overcome it.

¹ Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton (widow of Josceline, Earl of Northumberland), married Ralph, third Baron and first Duke of Montagu.

I have sent you the Gazettes, Doctor, though 1686. they will be so old, all the use of them will be to practise your French tongue.

I am, with great sincerity,

Your faithful friend to serve you.

July 11, 1686.

Sir William Coventry¹ left a noble charity when he died, 2000*l.* to the French refugees, and 3000*l.* to redeem slaves. His four executors are, Harry Savil, James and Harry Thin, which are two brothers of the Lord Weymouth, and Frank Coventry, his nephew. He died at Tunbridge, and was buried at Penshurst, where there is a monument to his memory with an inscription.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

GOOD DOCTOR,

I am sure my heart is filled with the obligation, how ill soever my words may express it, for all those hours you have set apart (in a busy life) for my particular benefit, for the quieting my distracted thoughts, and reducing them to a just measure of patience for all I have or can suffer.

¹ Fourth and youngest son of Thomas first Lord Coventry. Burnet calls him, "A man of great notions and eminent virtues." Lord Clarendon says, "He was a sullen, ill-natured, proud man, whose ambition had no limits, nor could be contained within any."

1686. I trust I shall with diligence, and some success, serve those ends they were designed to. They have very punctually, the time you intended them for, the last two sheets coming to my hands the 16th of this fatal month; it is the 21st completes my three years of true sorrow, which should be turned rather into joy; as you have laid it before me, with reasons strongly maintained, and rarely illustrated. Sure he is one of those has gained by a dismissal from a longer attendance here: while he lived his being pleased led me to be so too, and so it should do still; and then my soul should be full of joy; I should be easy and cheerful, but it is sad and heavy; so little we distinguish how, and why we love, to me it argues a prodigious fondness of one's self; I am impatient that is hid from me I took delight in, though he knows much greater than he did here. All I can say for myself is, that while we are clothed with flesh, to the perfectest, some displeasure will attend a separation from things we love. This comfort I think I have in my affliction, that I can say, unless thy law had been my delight, I should have perished in my trouble. The rising from the dead is a glorious contemplation, Doctor! nothing raises a drooping spirit like it: His Holy Spirit, in the mean time, speaking peace to our consciences, and through all the gloomy sadness of our condition, letting us discern that we belong to the election of grace, that our persons are ac-

cepted and justified. But still I will humble myself ¹⁶⁸⁶. for my own sins, and those of our family's, that brought such a day on us.

I have been under more than ordinary care for my eldest girl; she has been ill of St. Anthony's fire, as we call it, and is not yet free from it. I had a doctor down with her, but he found her so likely to do well he staid only one day. I have sent you these Gazettes, and will send no more, for I reckon you will be in your progress of visits.

I wish with you Lord Campden would marry: but I want skill to prevail by what I can say. I hope I need employ none to persuade Dr. Fitzwilliam that I am very acknowledging, and very sincerely

His friend and servant.

July 18, 1686.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I CAN divine no more than yourself, good Doctor, why a letter writ the 18th of July should come to you before one that was writ the 13th: they went from hence in order, I am very sure. I answer yours as soon as I can, and yet not soon enough to find you at Cotenham, as I guessed, being you say you intended to be at Windsor the middle of September, and the greatest part of the interval at Hereford; and I remember you have in a former letter told me, you intended a visit at Lord Gains-

1686. borough's; so that this paper being likely to be a wanderer, and so in hazard of not coming to you at all it may be, I will not charge it with those letters you ask for; they are too valuable to me to be ventured, especially since mine loiter so by the way; therefore I will hear again from you before I send them, with particular directions where they shall come to you. I read with some contentment, Doctor, that as either to speak or write a compliment would ill become you, it is your opinion my nature is averse to be so treated. It is so indeed, if I know myself; and I thank you for your justice to me. I have long thought it the meanest inclination a man can have, to be very solicitous for the praise of the world, especially if the heart is not pure before God. It is an unfaithfulness I have been afraid of, and do not fear to say it has often excited me to be what I found good people thought me.

I do confess there is a beauty in godliness, that draws our love to those we find it in: and it does give a secret pleasure to have that attributed to one's self that one finds so charming in another. I am very certain, Doctor, your judgment is without error, that the fastest cement of friendship is piety. One may love passionately, but one loves quietly, if the friend be not a good man; and when a separation comes, what veneration do we give to their memory, we consider as loved by God from all eternity!

As to your papers, Sir, I would not by any means abuse the power you give me, nor can I think I do so, if I am a cause that others have it in their power to try the same cordial I have found comfortable when under great heaviness of heart. I have read those books you have avoided to read, and must say as you do, the same matter may be handled several ways. In mixing cordials for faint spirits, we often make them differ in the taste; yet one is as useful and effectual as the other; perhaps one is most so to the one, when the other is to another: but that is not known till both tried. As to the commonness of the subject, why should that hinder? No man is at all times laying himself out to the uttermost of his ability, that is, in treating the deepest points; yet, if some such work ought to be public before one of this sort, I will not be contentious, nor tyrannical, in the power which is in my hands, because you have given it: it would be an unjust return to your compositions in my great distress. I would acquiesce, and be content with copies, for such to whom I would recommend the reading of them also. I will tell you another scruple just now (as I write) risen in my thoughts, and therefore not at all digested, that though you do not own the work by your name before it, yet the author seldom fails being known, and the peculiar occasion when there is one. Whether the politic part were good then in the publishing of it, it

1686. is advisable to consider of perhaps. And pray do so, and not from a quickness of mind answer me presently; you put it not in balance when the design is to serve one you profess a particular respect to. But remember my end is served, and theirs, we know, may be so too: those we know not, will be the losers. This is my highest objection, and what I will not too easily pass over. We live in difficult times. God in mercy fit each one for his lot. My letters lie ready, and some prayers you sent with the first papers.

My sister Alington we have kept still here: she threatens to leave us every week. Rachel is very well again; I desire to bless God for it. My sister's girl is recovering. Our news letters say her Lord has a new friendship with Lord Danby; but nothing is strange in such as follow Courts.

Not knowing the fate of this letter, I will add no more from,

Good Doctor,

Your obliged friend and servant.

Woborne Abbey, August 12, 1686.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

As I think time very well spent in reading your letters, good Doctor, I am ever disposed to thank you for them, and all the consolation they bring with them, the excitations to all good direc-

tions relating to practice or contemplation, by all 1686. pious arts, seeking a cure to an unhappy creature, and faulty in giving too much scope to nature and passion, not duly considering the great blessings God still continued to me; for that must have softened the sharpness of other thoughts, that have subdued me but too absolutely; yet as you exceedingly well remember me, I might reflect how my son was raised in my great day of trouble, and that I felt lately I could yet be more miserable, if the evil threatened had fallen on another beloved child; but God has been gracious to me in healing her sorrow, and I will endeavour religiously to perform my resolution, made in my agonies for her, of some cheerful thankfulness.

Your last, Doctor, I received since my return to Woborne: the date was the 10th October. I have been the less quick in my answer, from some expectation, if you came to London, I should hear again from you; but I think your usual time is, not till November, and that is too long to stay, to send this to Windsor.

I will not argue about the sheets of paper, since there cannot well be any determination, till you have, I guess, those papers you once ordered to be sent to you to Cotenham; but your letter came not so timely for me to think fit to send them, by reason of your journey to Herefordshire. I am very solicitous you should be safe in the first place; and then it is fit to wish all good people

1686. all the benefit they can have by the pious labours of such as are blessed with gifts to prepare it for them. Alas ! Doctor, I am as far as yourself can be from imagining, that any the most forward to take his life (in whose all the innocent delights of mine were bound) had the least thought to embitter mine ; or indeed thought of me at all. The point in that kind is no more, as I conceive it, than the sense of an officiousness to one that so sadly laments what they would have all rejoiced at ; but this is a matter so far sought for, that I think there is nothing in it, and the less from the acquaintance, which is so notoriously known, and your dependence once upon my father. I will let it rest this time, with my hearty wishes, you may advise and choose best in this and all other concerns ; I do it as one very sincerely,

Your affectionate friend to serve you.

Woborne Abbey, Oct. 27, 1686.

I have now received a letter from Lady Gainsborough, as surprising as anything of that kind can be to one. It is to tell me that Lord Campden was come from his sister Digby's, the night before, to ask his father's leave to marry the Lord Brooke's eldest daughter,¹ and was returning in haste to accomplish it. My Lady indeed writ to me, as

¹ Wriothesley Baptist, Lord Campden, son to Edward Earl of Gainsborough, by Lady Elizabeth Wriothesley ; married Catharine, daughter to Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke.

long ago as when they were entertaining the King 1686. at Portsmouth, that a Warwickshire Knight had writ to her Lord to propose this young lady to his son, but I expected no other effect from it, than has been from so many other motions of that kind; however, the wise man says, there is a time for all things. I am certain there can be none in which I do not wish their mother's children happy as my own. I think myself hugely obliged to my Lady in taking care I may not have all the advertisements from a newspaper, or the hand of those as little concerned, as I had now, and happened to open it before hers, not knowing it, the superscription not being her hand. It was a matter so unlooked for by me, it gained no credit, till I read my Lady's own letter.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I do not love, good Doctor, to let your letters lie by me unanswered. I ever find much in them that expresses my obligation to you, and as soon inclines me to be saying something by the way of thankfulness. The gratefulness I can make, I am persuaded, is to do myself good, by letting into my soul deep impressions of those necessary duties you so elegantly urge. I do promise you my endeavours, and assure you, you treat me as

1686. I would be treated. All the fault I can find is in your apologies; they are too humble towards yourself in the mistrusts of your proceeding. Indeed, Doctor, you observe too punctually respects to err on the one hand, and are too stout and sincere a Christian to do it on the other, so that it is safe to be under your conduct. If high quality shuts out a freedom in those cases, I bless the goodness of God I am out of that exalted rank, for I would choose to be told my smallest errors.

I join my wishes most sincerely with yours for the prosperity of Lord Campden, and that his happiness in marriage may exceed his expectation. Some years past I should have been mightily pleased at the double relation this marriage gives me to him, but there is a stain¹ in the father can never be washed off to my sight. I am sorry for it: however, that will not lessen my respect to the young lady, and especially when she is my nephew's wife. I hear from all but himself he is a transported lover. I fear he will be gone before I get to London; I fear it, because I could be content to see him since his inflexibility is conquered. My sister Alington, I hear, has much of his company; I doubt not but she has some of yours also. More discourse of the papers is deferred

¹ What stain Lady Russell alludes to is uncertain, unless as he is said to have performed sundry acceptable services to King Charles the Second, some of those services may have been viewed by her Ladyship as not very honourable.

till we meet, which, if God permit, may be under 1686. three weeks, or thereabouts.

Nov. 19, 1686.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

NOTHING less fatal than what happened last week in my poor sister's family, I think, should have kept me, I am sure not willingly, from writing to you, good Doctor; but you will not wonder I found no time for such an exercise as this, when you know it has been the will of God to take the life of her eldest son,¹ after lying ill of a fever eight days. I believe she takes it heavily, for truly I have not seen her since the child died on Sunday morning, and her Lord and herself went on Saturday night to Lady Harvey's.² She gave me her girl to take home to me; the other boy being then feverish also, continues in the house. Now my own sad trials making me know how mean a comforter I can be, I think my best service is to take some care of her two children, who are both well now, and hope God will be pleased to keep them so, and teach her to be content. God

¹ Ralph, eldest son to Ralph Lord Montagu, died about twelve years old.

² Lady Harvey, Elizabeth, only daughter of Edward second Lord Montagu, was married to Sir Daniel Harvey, Knt., Ambassador to Constantinople, 1668.

1686. should place his creatures where He knows it is best for them to be, and when it is best for us, we shall go to them, but they must not come back to us, who remain to struggle in an unquiet world, in all appearance; yet God's hand is not shortened that He cannot save; however, if He will not here, He will hereafter, if we patiently wait the day of consolation that will endure for ever. Join your fervent prayers with my weak and cold ones, good Doctor, that no secret murmurs of heart may stand between me, and hinder my hopes of the admirable comforts of that great day, for which my mourning soul longs.

The poor Princess is wonderful sad I hear.¹ It is said the King is not pleased with the Envoy Extraordinary² the States are sending over; he is one,

¹ Princess Ann, married Prince George, second son of Frederic III. King of Denmark, in 1683.

² Monsieur Dyckvelt. The following is from the original in the handwriting of Lady Russell:—

“SOME PART OF MR. DYCKVELT'S DISCOURSE IN A VISIT TO ME.

“Thursday, March 24, 1686-7.

“I received a visit from M. Dyckvelt the Dutch Ambassador. He spoke in French to this effect:—

“To condole on the part of the Prince and Princess of Orange my terrible misfortunes, of which they had had a very feeling sense, and continued still to have so; and as my loss was very great so they believed my sorrow still was such, for whose person in particular, as also my own family, and that I had married into, they had great respect and value, and should always readily take all occasions to show it: that it would be a great pleasure to them if it would give any ease to my thoughts to take the assurance that if ever it came to be in their power there was nothing I could ask that they should not find a content in granting.

“That for the re-establishing of my son, what I should at any time

it seems, entirely in the interest of the Prince. 1686. The Chief Justice Benefield¹ died suddenly in the church last Sunday; and a Master in Chancery did so since, but I do not know his name. I must desire you once more to write how to direct

see reason to ask, would be done in as full and ample a manner as was possible. That he did not deliver this message in a private capacity, but as a public minister. Then, again, he hugely enlarged his compliment, giving me the content to tell me the high thoughts the Prince always had and still preserved of my excellent Lord, that his Highness had never accused his intentions, even at the time of his suffering, and had considered and lamented it as a great blow to the best interest of England and the Protestant religion. That he had frequently before heard the Prince take occasion to speak of him, and that he ever did it as of one he had the best thoughts one could have of a man.

“And he said (with protestation) that he did do so with design to make an agreeable compliment to me that he found the very same justice given to his memory here, and that so universal, that even those who pretended no partiality to his person or actions, yet bore a reverence to his name; all allowing him that integrity, honour, courage, and zeal to his country to the highest degree a man can be charged with, and in this age, perhaps, singular to himself, and he added at this completed with a great piety.

“Words to this effect (as near as my memory can carry it) he several times repeated, and gave me (as he termed it) one remarkable instance at what rate, such who were not his professed friends esteemed his loss. It was this—that dining at Mr. Skelton’s (then the King of England’s Resident in Holland) immediately after the news was come thither of my Lord’s sufferings, &c., M. Dyckvelt, taking notice of what had passed, and in such a manner as was most proper for him to do to Mr. Skelton, Mr. Skelton sat silent when he named the Lord Essex, but that upon my Lord Russell’s name he replied upon it, ‘The King has, indeed, taken the life of one man, but he has lost a thousand or thousands by it.’ M. Dyckvelt then added, this I know to be the very sense of so many that I should not have repeated it, but for this reason, I do it because it was Mr. Skelton said it.”

¹ Sir Henry Bedingfield, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

1687. my letters, for the last, which was to send them on Thursday, is so blotted, I fear to mistake, therefore this is by the post to assure you I am very faithfully,

Your friend and servant.

Feb. 9, 1686-7, Ash Wednesday.

Lord Newport¹ gave up his staff on Tuesday. The Gazette this day, says Lord Waldegrave, has the Lord Mainard's; and Lord Yarmouth² Newport's staff. Prince George is ill of a fever. Both the children were opened; the eldest was all consumed, but the youngest very sound, and likely to live.

THE REV. JOHN HOWE TO LADY RUSSELL.³

Utrecht, Feb. 9, 1686-7.

I DOUBT not, Madam, but you believe me sincerely willing to serve any relative of your Lady-

¹ Francis Viscount Newport, and in 1694 created Earl of Bradford, married Diana, sister to William first Duke of Bedford.

² William Paston, second Earl of Yarmouth, Treasurer of the Household, married the Lady Charlotte Jemima Maria, natural daughter to Charles II., by the Viscountess Shannon, daughter of Sir William Killigrew.

³ From Miss Berry's Memoir. "John Howe, a learned Nonconformist divine in the seventeenth century: born in 1630. He was domestic chaplain to Oliver Cromwell. In August, 1685, he travelled beyond seas with the Lord Wharton, and the year following settled at Utrecht, and took his turn in preaching at the English church in that city. In 1687, upon King James publishing his 'Declaration for Liberty of Conscience,' Mr. Howe returned to London, where he died April 2,

ship, or of the honourable family I am about to¹⁶⁸⁷ mention; and shall, therefore, forbear everything of apology for the trouble I now give you. If your Ladyship think it not unfit to give me a character of my Lord of Bedford's (now) eldest son, and it prove as good on his part (which what I already know leaves me little place of doubt for), as I am sure it will be true on your Ladyship's, supposing he have not determined still to live single, or be not otherwise pre-engaged, I might, perhaps (though I can only promise faithful endeavours), improve it to his advantage, with an English Lady,¹ my present neighbour, so very deserving in respect of all personal qualifications, family, and fortune, as to be capable of contributing what can be expected from such a relation, to the making a person, suitable to her, very happy in it. It would be requisite, to qualify me for attempting anything herein, that I be able to give an account, besides his strict sobriety, of his seriousness in religion, without being addicted (to

1705, and was interred in the parish church of Allhallows, Broad Street." Chalmers' Biog. Dic. vol. xviii. p. 254. He was a good Orientalist, and understood several modern languages. His "Blessedness of the Righteous" is esteemed his best work, and is popular in the present day.

¹ The Lady in question was Frances, daughter of Sir Robert Williams of Penrhyn, widow of Richard Lloyd, Esq., of Eclis, in Denbighshire. She married Mr., afterwards Lord Edward, Russell, the following year. He was long one of the Members for the county of Bedford, and was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county of Middlesex during the minority of his nephew, Lady Russell's son, Wriothesley, second Duke of Bedford. He died, without children, in 1714.

1687. the degree of bigotry) unto any the distinguishing modes of it used among sober-minded Protestants; and (which is a great essential) of that goodness of temper, wherein is a composition of prudence and kindness, that shall neither incline to a fond levity, nor too morose sourness; together with his certain estate, without reference to such possibilities, as, which God forbid they should, signify anything, either in reality or expectation. I doubt not I might receive very liberal encomiums of this noble person from other hands; but if I should ever mention such a thing to the Lady herself, nothing could give me so great a confidence therein as I should receive from your Ladyship's testimony: nor can anything (upon what I know of her just and high honour for your Ladyship) signify so much with her. I apprehend it will be the less inconvenient for your Ladyship to give your sense upon this subject, that there will be no need, in doing so, again to mention his name, and that mere silence will serve as to any part (if there should be any) wherein your Ladyship cannot allow yourself to be positive; and it would be the more convenient, for that I doubt not your Ladyship can say all that will be for the present requisite, without making any inquiries from a third person, which, as yet, would not be seasonable.

Your Ladyship so well understands how little reason there is the great and wise Lord and Ruler of all things should make the state of things per-

fect and unexceptionable, in a world not intended 1687.
 for perpetuity, and designed to be a place of discipline, for the exercise and improvement of virtue and religion, not of full rewards for them; and you are so fully persuaded that the rewards of the other state will be sufficiently ample for all the sufferings and sorrows wherewith sincerity is often attended in this, that I need wish no more for your Ladyship's present continual support and consolation than that you may have the constant living sense of what you already know; which I cease not to pray for to your Ladyship, together with the fulness of all blessings, upon the most hopeful plants under your care; as greatly becomeeth,

Most honoured Madam,

Your Ladyship's most obliged,

And most faithfully devoted humble servant,

JOHN HOWE.

LADY RUSSELL TO THE REV. JOHN HOWE.

February, 1687.

LET me assure Mr. Howe I do not write this with indifference, upon several accounts. I receive your letter as a kind testimony of your remembrance, which I value very much; and yet I feel myself more engaged by your zeal to do good to that family I have known so true content in, and am entirely dedicated to. It is honourable

1687. and worthy in the whole, and every branch of it have their peculiar virtues; but every highest respect (meaning that sex we are to speak of) is placed, where my best and blessed friend placed his. This may possibly be a bar to your concluding, that what I may say should be received as impartially given; though yet I think it may, since I am sincerest in searching where I desire to find the fewest faults. Some, in this imperfect state, must be found in man: but I do sincerely believe the person is highly qualified to make one happy in the nearest relation we can have upon earth. I would for no advantage to myself, or friend, deceive any; especially by false acts, be an instrument to lead one eminently confident into error, and so desperate a one, out of which there is no recovery. But where there is great honour, truth, courage, and great good-nature, what supposition can there be that when joined with a prudent and virtuous woman, they should not feel the felicity of the happiest state of life? Self-interest does not bribe me to say this, since now the drudgery of living only remains to me; but, in my pleasant days, so near a relation, so very deserving, must have been gladly received, and even now must be owned a kind Providence; and would undoubtedly not fail to be so by the obliged family, which, I can pronounce, is the easiest to converse or live with that ever I have known, or could observe. There is one particular, that, with-

out making inquiries from a third person (which 1687. you are of opinion would not yet be seasonable), I can give no report of, that is, their certain estate. I am entirely ignorant in that point; but do imagine Mr. Ashurst not quite so. I am very nice of inquiring into those particulars of all others, but I know they have an equal and just father, and what is once promised will be punctually performed. Proceedings of this nature can move so slow at such a distance, that more than I have said I do not take to be necessary, in order to your friendly attempting to facilitate a happy union. When the lady is again in England, I shall be early in paying my respects, and with great integrity acquitting myself of any part in this affair that can fall upon me; or, if it sinks into nothing, ever retain the sense of your good-will and forwardness to dispose the lady towards it; and shall as little fail to acquaint my Lord Bedford, whose mind is ever prepared to all real acknowledgments when he feels himself obliged.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I MUST keep still to Friday, since I have not a new direction from you, as I asked by the post last week. I will not repeat the sad intelligence I gave you then, because I am sure you cannot be without the information now.

1687... The good Princess has taken her chastisement heavily; the first relief of that sorrow proceeded from the threatening of a greater, the Prince being ill. I never heard any relation more moving than that of seeing them together. Sometimes they wept, sometimes they mourned; in a word, then sat silent, hand in hand; he sick in his bed, and she the carefullest nurse to him that can be imagined. As soon as he was able, they both went to Richmond, which was on Tuesday last..

My sister continues still at Lady Harvey's, much afflicted at her loss; it seems as if they would not return again at this time to Montague House, but take some house near Windsor. Her daughter is still with me, but the boy at Montague House: though now very well, he is not suffered to go further than the next room: the present terror upon loss of the other has occasioned more care for him than was necessary. This is a fine lively child; I hope God will spare it to them to their comfort, and not in wrath, as sometimes one would judge children are. We little know what we earnestly ask for, when we do so for the lives of children or friends.

The King refuses audience to Monsieur Dykvelt,¹

¹ "Of the diplomatists in the service of the United Provinces, none was in dexterity, temper, and manners, superior to Dykvelt. In knowledge of English affairs none seems to have been his equal. A pretence was found for dispatching him early in the year 1687 to England, on a special mission with credentials from the States-General. But, in truth, his embassy was not to the Government, but to the Opposition; and

till matters are adjusted with his new ambassador in 1687. Holland, for he has not had his yet. The ministers have been to visit this, that is, Lord Sunderland,¹ for he is as the whole. Every one has their guess what his business is, but all together are of one mind, that he might as well have stayed away for any advantage he will have in his journey. It is supposed Lord Clarendon² is kept in Ireland by the winds as the other was in England. There is great astonishment amongst that people, Lord Ormond yet walking with his white staff.³ The reports are divers; some say he has answered the question unmannerly; but the King told him, in consideration of his age, he should wear his staff; others are apt to think he will be absent; and more are of this last opinion, as also that the Parliament shall continue still to be prorogued. The Lord Sunderland said to that effect a few days ago; but the words of ministers are not easily understood in their true meaning.

The talk is great that France will early in the spring fall into Alsace, but my French friends will

his conduct was guided by private instructions which had been drawn by Burnet, and approved by William."—Macaulay's "History of England," vol. ii. p. 245.

¹ Robert, second Earl of Sunderland.

² Henry Hyde, second Earl of Clarendon. "Clarendon was accompanied, or speedily followed across St. George's Channel, by a large proportion of the most respectable inhabitants of Dublin, gentlemen, tradesmen, and artificers. It was said that fifteen hundred families emigrated in a few days."—Macaulay's "History of England," vol. ii. p. 159.

³ Duke of Ormond was Steward of the Household.

1687. not allow it ; they agree he would fain make a peace of the truce, and fright them into it (if nothing else will do), with the threats of a war, yet will engage in none.

I am, Sir,

Your real friend, all the sad life of

R. RUSSELL.

Feb. 18, 1686-7.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THERE is so much reason, Doctor, to think that time well spent is so in reading your excellent letters, that it is time lost to spend any in telling you I esteem it to such a height, I shall be very defective in expressing, if I went about it. But you must conclude one knows nothing of good or bad, and is contented with that sordid ignorance, before you can believe what you write is read with indifference ; and since you have conceived better thoughts of me, I will hope (notwithstanding my many frailties) you will never find cause to let them sink so low as to doubt whether I use some strict care to be prepared for all future events, and to receive with thankfulness the counsel and instruction of good and wise men, whose friendship, zeal, and compassion dispose them with painful labour and pious arts, to win us to that is infinitely best for us. I often think, could but this single particular be fixed firmly in our hearts, that God knows where it is best to place his creatures, and is good to all, de-

lighting not to punish what He has made, how easily 1687. and safely could we live by rule, and despise the world; not as, perhaps, I do, because I cannot recover what was a perpetual bliss to me here, but as considering we are strangers and pilgrims upon earth, travelling to a better country, and therefore may well bear with bad accommodations sometimes in our way to it. None are so dealt with, I believe, as not to live some days of joy, yet we can lay no claim to do so, nor are the happiest here below without tasting the bitter cup of affliction at some time of their life; so imperfect is this state, and doubtless wisely and mercifully ordered so, that through all the changes and chances of this mortal life, we may be the most apt to thrust forward towards, and in the end (with inexpressible joy) attain, that state where, as you express it, we shall feel no more storms, but enjoy a perpetual calm. What can be more! The thought clasps one's heart, and causes the imprisoned soul to long to take her flight! But it is our duty to wait with patience each of us our appointed time.

My sister is just now at Mr. Winwood's, by Windsor; when she comes back, I shall make her know how much you have considered her; and I pray God to lay it close to her heart, that she may retire into the strengths of grace, the more sincerely she is assaulted with discomfits here. She has a fine lovely boy left. The poor Princess continues still at Richmond, too sad I fear.

1687. Monsieur Dykvelt had his audience on Monday, and was retired with the King half an hour in his closet. He is allowed to be a man of parts and integrity: what his business is, every one is left to his own guess as yet.

Lord Clarendon landed on Monday last: it is affirmed the new governor¹ lays heavy weight on him, as that he leaves the people under great discouragements, occasioned by the sad stories he has told them, and using all arguments to bring them away by whole families; that in a little time he did not doubt to reassume them, when they would be made sensible no harm was meant to them.

The King is marrying the Lady Mary Tudor to one Mr. Radcliffe,² a gentleman of great estate in the north, and ancient family; a papist.

Sir John Talbot is to be made a Lord presently: the King says he finds him to be a gentleman of better understanding than almost any he knows in

¹ "Lord Tyrconnell gone to succeed the Lord Lieutenant (Clarendon) in Ireland to the astonishment of all sober men, and to the evident ruin of the Protestants in that kingdom, as well as of its gréate improvement going on. Much discourse that all the White Staff Officers and others should be dismiss'd for adhering to their Religion. Popish Justices of the Peace establish'd in all Counties, of the meanest of the people; Judges ignorant of the Law, and perverting it—so furiously do the Jesuits drive, and even compel Princes to violent courses, and destruction of an excellent Government both in Church and State. God of his infinite mercy open our eyes and turn our hearts, and establish his truth with peace! The Lord Jesus defend his little Flock, and preserve this threaten'd Church and Nation."—Evelyn's "Diary," vol. i. p. 635.

² Sir Francis Radcliffe, second Earl of Derwentwater, married Mary Tudor, natural daughter to Charles II. by Mary Davis.

England, and judges him to be a person of integrity ; 1687. which is more than can be pronounced of Mr. Jenkyns¹ of the North, heir to an estate of 1200*l.* per annum.

He was accused as the author of Lady Mary Pawlet's grievous misfortune, but with great asseverations he denied it to persons of the best quality that were concerned for her ; yet now owns himself her husband more than a year past. Enough of so bad a story. Lord Northampton on Monday last presented, on the Bishop's behalf, a petition to the King, to which there is yet no answer. The petition² contained no more than expressing a deep sense of lying under the King's displeasure, and beg-

¹ Toby Jenkyns, Esq., of Grimston, Yorkshire, married Lady Elizabeth Pawlet, youngest daughter of Charles Marquis of Winchester (first Duke of Bolton).

² George Compton, fourth Earl of Northampton, nephew to Henry Bishop of London. "The Bishop," says Burnet, "carried arms for some years. When he was past thirty he took orders. He was an humble and modest man. He applied himself more to his function than Bishops had commonly done. He was a great patron of the converts from Popery, and of those Protestants whom the bad usage they were beginning to meet with in France drove to us. Dr. Compton, Bishop of London, was on Monday suspended, on pretence of not silencing Dr. Sharp, of St. Giles's, for something of a sermon in which he zealously reprov'd the doctrine of the Roman Catholics. The Bishop having consulted the Civilians, they told him he could not by any law proceed against Dr. Sharp without producing witnesses, and impleading according to form ; but it was overrul'd by my Lord Chancellor, and the Bishop sentenc'd without so much as being heard to any purpose. This was thought a very extraordinary way of proceeding, and was universally resented, and so much the rather for that of two bishops, Durham (Crewe), and Rochester (Sprat), sitting in the Commission and giving their suffrages, the Archbishop of Canterbury refus'd to sit amongst them. He was only suspended *ab officio*, and that was soone after taken off. He was brother to the Earl of Northamp-

1687. ging that might be taken off. They say a declaration will presently come out, to show the King's dispensing power.¹ Mr. Savil was yesterday morning in the King's closet. The event is expected. Many are persuaded the French King is bent for action this spring; my French friends will not allow it. If my paper did not put me in mind, I know not how long I should have rambled on. Room must be left for all my good things: the best turkey, the best pork and cheese that can be eat: the last bit of pork eat last night. This is not lent-fare, Doctor.

Feb. 25, 1686-87.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

ALTHOUGH I take your life, good Doctor, to be a continual doing good to souls, and am very certain you would not exclude mine from the best benefits you can help it with; and therefore, from the general course of your actions do rely upon being profited by your precepts, examples, and pious prayers; yet I know myself to owe you, as one you have distinguished from others by your particular

ton, had once been a soldier, had travelled in Italy, but became a sober, grave, and excellent prelate."—Evelyn's "Diary," vol. i. p. 631, 4to. Sharp's sermon was preached May 2, 1686. "A memorable discourse, in which he expressed a contempt of those who could be converted by any arguments in favour of the Romish faith." The preacher, after various preferments, was consecrated Archbishop of York, July 5, 1691.

¹ "On the 4th of April appeared the memorable Declaration of Indulgence. It was severely censured by the Prince of Orange, whose words were reported to James, and disturbed him greatly."—See Macaulay's "England," vol. i. p. 211 and 234.

labours, to make my sorrowful soul find comfort in 1687. what true joys are only to be found. Therefore, if I knew how, I would, both in my actions and words, make my acknowledgments distinguished from others. I know of what sort they are you would like best; to preserve myself with better care to receive those comforts you can but externally administer, with prayer, that God by his good Spirit would deal inwardly in our hearts, and work his work of grace upon us; then we should do mighty things. I am sorry for my unaptness, and sometimes think, that certainly in my more pleasant days, I lived as if I knew no higher delight, and it is that makes my separation still so bitter to me, that, to my shame and sorrow, I must confess to you my heart seems so bound down to a perpetual sadness, that even the solemnity of this blessed time, which calls for our most exalted praises, could not stir it, nor yet does it melt at the meditations of my dear Saviour's suffering for sinners; but a flood of tears are ever ready, when I permit the least thought of my calamity. This is matter of great humiliation, and, I hope, I make it such; and must rest in doing the duty, till God sees it fit to let me know better refreshments, and taste of those joys in which his servants are often so transported; but I will wait with a quiet submission.

Here has appeared no great changes since you went; the liberty of conscience is so notorious a matter, I meddle not with it, confining myself to

1687. lower matters, as I may tell you. He who was Admiral Herbert¹ is forbid to go out of England. Mr. Forester, who has been in Holland some considerable time, is sent for by a privy seal.

There is a sheet of paper writ, as the King has said, by Doctor Burnet, to give reasons against taking away the Test. It is hard to get; when I have it you shall see it. Some think it is not Burnet's.

The Prince and Princess have consented to see him no more. Lady Rochester² lies still in a languishing condition. Lord Peterborough³ is declared

¹ Arthur Herbert, created Earl of Torrington, 1689, by King William for his great services. "Arthur Herbert was much loved by the sailors, and was reputed one of the best of the aristocratical class of naval officers. It had been generally supposed that he would readily comply with the royal wishes, for he was heedless of religion. He was fond of pleasure and expense; he had no private estate; his places brought him in 4000*l.* a year; and he had long been reckoned among the most devoted personal adherents of James. When, however, the rear-admiral was closeted, and required to promise that he would vote for the repeal of the Test Act, his answer was that his honour and conscience would not permit him to give any such pledge. He was dismissed from all his places, and the account of what he had disbursed and received as Master of the Robes was scrutinized with great and, as he complained, with unjust severity."—Macaulay's "England," vol. ii. p. 210.

But Burnet says of him that "he was upon every occasion sullen and peevish, and delivered up to pride and luxury. Yet he had a good understanding." He died without issue, April 14, 1716.

² Henrietta, daughter of Richard Boyle, second Earl of Burlington and Cork, wife of Lawrence Hyde, Earl of Rochester.

³ Henry Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough; he died without issue male, 1697. "Distinguished as a wit and a scholar, as a soldier and a sailor, but," says Mr. Macaulay, "of that strange unsoundness of mind which made his courage and capacity almost useless to his country."

a Roman Catholic: the report is, two more, the ¹⁶⁸⁷.
Chancellor¹ and Lord President² will next Sunday.
I remember no more, so leave you to the Gazette,
ever continuing,

Your real friend and servant.

April 1, 1687.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THE morning I left London I received a letter from you, dated 30th May, which informed me of your good intentions to have seen me at this place, if I could have kept mine of being here a week sooner than I was. To have met at my first coming so pious and so kind a friend would have been an advantage to me I am not at all worthy of, who entertain with so heavy a heart those many and great mercies God still preserves to me his murmuring servant, who am indeed brimfull with the memory of that unfortunate and miserable change in my own condition, since I lived regularly here before.

The poor children are well pleased to be a little while in a new place, ignorant how much better it has been, both to me and them; yet I thought I found Rachel not insensible, and I could not but be content with it in my mind. Those whose age can afford them any remembrance, should, methinks, have some solemn thoughts for so irreparable a loss to themselves and family; though after that I

¹ Jefferies.

² Earl of Sunderland.

1687. would cherish a cheerful temper in them with all the industry I can; for sure we please our Maker best, when we take all his providences with a cheerful spirit.

Lord Campden has sent to see me, but whether I shall see him or no, I cannot tell. I find my time is spent, so will put up the Gazettes, and bid you adieu for this time, ever continuing,

Your faithful friend to serve you.

My sister Alington, her sister, and daughter Alington, and my brother Robert, have made me a visit of two days. I am thankful, though I wished it longer. I hear Mr. Cheek is put from the Tower, and Sir Edward Hales¹ in his place.

Stratton, June 13, 1637.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE just received yours of the 21st; seasonable enough it comes to me, this being the eve of the sad day that ushered in the great calamity of my life; the same day my dear Lord was carried from his house, I entertained the sad assurance of quickly after losing the sight of him for ever in this world; what the manner of it will be in the

¹ Sir Edward Hales, Bart., a Roman Catholic. He was a Privy Councillor, Lord of the Admiralty, and Lieut.-Governor of the Tower. He followed James II. to France, and was created by him Earl of Tenterden, in Kent, Viscount Tunstall, and Baron Hales of Emley, May, 1692. He died in France in 1695.

next is dark and unknown to us; it is enough that 1687. we shall be happy eternally.

I think you judge amiss, good Doctor, that because those excellent rules and discourses I have by me do not fix me in a better (by a more settled) state of comfort, therefore your presence would not have had some useful influence. Our senses are quick, and a reflection as soon made as an object is presented; also the inconvenience of indulging it is as soon confessed when a reasoning friend is present; but we cannot have recourse to papers, and will not, or cannot, being before prepossessed, recollect by memory, and make application just then. However, Doctor, though I am not cured, my ill is less inveterate than sure it would have been without your pious labours.

I spoke with Mr. Nutt about the printing them, and he put me in mind of the hopes I had given him of the employment; to which I answered, I could not do that till you was in town.

My house is full of company; to-morrow being Sunday, I purpose to sanctify it, if my griefs unhallow it not by unjustifiable passions; and having given some hours to privacy in the morning, live in my house as on other days, doing my best to be tolerably composed. It is my first trial; for all these sad years past I have dispensed with the seeing anybody, or till late at night; sometimes I could not avoid that without a singularity I do not affect. There are three days I like best to give up

1687. to reflection; the day my Lord was parted from his family, that of his trial, and the day he was released from all the evils of this perishing world.¹

I thank you again, good Doctor, for your seasonable prayer. It may be this shall be the last letter I send you from hence, though I stay till Monday se'nnight; variety of care and little affairs it is possible may prevent other exercises I stand more inclined to. When I come to Woborne, if no sooner, I will again repeat that I hold myself to be, good Doctor,

Your obliged friend and servant.

June 25, 1687.

Miss Montague is with me.

I hope breeding prevents my seeing my sister.

THE PRINCESS OF ORANGE TO LADY RUSSELL.

I DID not expect so many thanks, my Lady Russell, as I find in your letter by Mr. Dykvelt, who has said so much to me of all the marks of kindness you showed both to the Prince and myself, that I should be ashamed not to have answered it sooner, but that you know one is not always provided with an opportunity of sending letters safely, of which indeed I am as much to seek now

¹ Lord Russell was arrested June 26, tried July 13, and beheaded July 21, 1683.

as ever, but hoping Mrs. Herbert¹ will sooner find one than I, I resolve to leave this with her, not knowing when it may come to you, but whenever it does, pray do me the justice to believe, that I have all the esteem for you which so good a character deserves, as I have heard given you by all people both before I left England and since I have been here. And have had as much pity as any could have of the sad misfortunes you have had, with much more compassion when they happen to persons who deserve so well, and yet those are they we often see the most unlucky in the world, as you find by experience; but I hope your son will live to be a comfort to you, which, under God, I believe will be the best you can have. As for myself, I can only assure both you and my Lord of Bedford, that I should be very glad it lay in my power to do you any kindness; the same I can answer for the Prince; and indeed you have expressed so much for us both to Mr. Dykvelt, that if it were possible it would increase the esteem I had before for you, which I shall be very glad of any occasion to show, and more to be better known to you, that I might persuade you myself of the desire I have that you should be one of my friends.

MARIE.

Honalerdyke, July 12, 1687.

¹ Most probably the wife of Admiral Herbert, who was twice married: first, to Anne, daughter of a Mr. Hadley; and, secondly, to Ann, daughter of Sir William Armine, and widow of Sir Thomas Wodehouse.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

1687. Good Doctor, I can still but do the same thing over again, thank you infinitely for all your good deeds to me. I must observe to you how kindly Providence (I will imitate you, and not call it chance) disposes of your letters to my hands. I read yours of 11th July on the 20th, the eve of that day—I will not suffer my hand to write, fatal, because the blow struck on it was that which gave eternal rest to my beloved friend. I do not contend on these days with frail nature, but keep her as innocent as I can. And now having laid all my sorrows at the foot of the throne of grace, I allow some of the remaining portion of my time to what disposes me best to cool my thoughts and entertain a tired mind, writing where I may do it freely; where my weakness shall be pitied, not censured; yet I shall be short, being forced to admit an interruption, not a welcome one this day; Lady Sunderland, in her way to Windsor, making a visit, which I refused not in the afternoon to receive. To my best I took the method you offered me, and I must tell you, that when I came to that part of your letter, where you put the case, if my heart tells me so, as indeed it does, I made a full stop, and would read no further till I had considered, and accused myself: then I compared how you had

stated it for me, and found it just the same in 1687. matter. I had made him my idol, though I did not know it: loved man too much, and God too little; yet my constant prayer was not to do so; but not enough fervent I doubt. I will turn the object of my love all I can upon his loved children, and if I may be directed and blessed in their education, what is it I have to ask in relation to this perishing world for myself? It is joy and peace in believing that I covet, having nothing to fear but sin.

This must find you at Windsor,¹ so my letter shall be the shorter; I know how you will be taken up there. I perceive your business is a friendly charity; it is a happy thing to be going about doing good: may you do so long, Doctor. I hope you will find my sister carrying on a great belly.

I will ever remain, good Doctor,

Your obliged friend to serve you.

July 21, 1687.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

Yours of the 28th September telling me you will be long enough at the Bath to be told that you are kindly remembered by your friends, I desire, good Doctor, to be one of those that do so, and esteem myself much obliged to you for taking a portion out of your time (to let me know you thought on me) when it was so precious, as I take

¹ Dr. Fitzwilliam was a prebend of Windsor.

1687. time to be to travellers. I wish you all the benefit of the waters you wish yourself; the same I do assure you, Sir, in all other occurrences of your life. It seems I must remit seeing you, as you once kindly intended. When I received your services to them, the Lady and mistress of Horseheath¹ were both here; they left us last Thursday, but I guess you may meet them at London, about the beginning of the term. My sister says she intends but a week's stay. I am in expectation to see my niece Digby in her way to Warwickshire; she sends me word she will dine here, and give me a sight of her little boy. Lord Campden and his Lady have been at Bremer with their cousin Kingston.² I am told the two cousins agree the country is a dull place in winter. I am easily drawn to believe my Lord Gainsborough might be sensible of a change at Titchfield, finding a mistress of it, and remembering those he had known there before; but almost all changes seem strange, yet this world we are so apt to doat upon is a perpetual passing from one thing to another, and rarely to more pleasing objects. But it is our duty to be contented with all—a hard task sometimes, Doctor.

I hear the French King, as a finishing stroké, is preparing an edict which all new converts shall sign; though so weak as to have signed before, yet they

¹ The residence of Lady Alington, in Cambridgeshire.

² William Pierrepont, Earl of Kingston, married Anne, eldest daughter of Robert Greville, Lord Brooke.

must now again, how they have been instructed, and 1687. are in their hearts convinced of the doctrine and practice of the Roman church, even to the article of Transubstantiation, that their sufferings have not been for religion, but their disobedience to the King's commands.

Doctor Burnet is outlawed in Scotland, and I am told a few days before (he knew it would be so), he invited all his friends to dinner, and after that was over took his solemn leave of them, resolving to converse no more with them.¹

I can easily and with much satisfaction spend much time with you, but for expedition's sake, having an opportunity to send this by one just going to London, I will add no more than to sign a great truth, that I am,

Your faithful sad friend and servant.

Oct. 5, 1687.

I have a large bundle of Gazettes can easily be conveyed to London; but then you are at no leisure to read them, so unless you send for them their resting place will be at Woborne.

¹ "None of his enemies had ever been regarded by him (King James) with such animosity as he now felt for Dr. Burnet,—even blood would not atone that frantic hatred. The insolent divine must be tortured before he were permitted to die. Fortunately he was by birth a Scot; and in Scotland his legs might be dislocated in the boot. Proceedings were accordingly instituted against him at Edinburgh; but he had been naturalized in Holland: he had married a woman of fortune who was a native of that province; and it was certain that his adopted country would not deliver him up."—Macaulay's "England," vol. ii. p. 244.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

1687. **ALTHOUGH** your letter, good Doctor, is dated 15th October, I read it not till the 20th, having received that with many others so late, I believe it was past midnight before I had done: yours was not the last neither, for when I had run over my common and impertinent ones (such I term compliments of course or feigned ones), I hastened to yours; indeed you make me greater compliments than anybody else; but I have no charge against you for doing so; what they exceed in I must bring the accusation against myself. The near and pleasing concern you make the well being of me and mine to be to you, I believe most hearty and sincere, and kindly engages me to great thankfulness; but amongst your choicest expressions, you are induced to say you could rather envy my condition than pity it, from an opinion of being supported and comforted, with a well-grounded persuasion of my having a right and title to those precious promises, that will give a pleasant and perpetual rest to the weary and heavy laden soul. This, Doctor, is perhaps what you mistake in; and I have led you into the error by speaking too well of my own thoughts or exercises, which are truly all mean and encompassed with uncomfortable weakness; yet I have not the confusion to reflect I have said any-

thing from a false glory ; I should, if I can discern 1687. right, wrong my own heart by it, and that grace of God which disposes me, though in the meanest degree, to ask for and thirst after such comforts as the world cannot give. What it can give I am most sure I have felt, and experienced them uncertain and perishing ; such I will never more (grace assisting) look after ; and yet I expect a joyful day, after some more mournful ones ; and though I walk sadly through the valley of death, I will fear no evil, humbling myself under the mighty hand of God, who will save in the day of trouble : He knows my sorrows and the weakness of my person. I commit myself and mine to him.

I had, as you guess, Doctor, the satisfaction of seeing Lady Digby, and her prosperous son, and hope she will maintain that house with an honourable and virtuous race. Lord Tiviot¹ has been here two days of this week, full fraught with stories out of Hampshire, some of them too much at the expense of such as must ever have a title to my best wishes, which fetched sighs from me. Yet the beauty of Providence should reconcile us to all sorts of dispensations. I have sent a large packet of Gazettes ; and have no other papers I believe you have not seen. If I had that which you mention of Remarks

¹ Robert Spenser, brother of Henry, first Earl of Sunderland, and second son of William, second Lord Spenser, of Wormleighton, by Lady Penelope Wriothesley, eldest daughter of Henry, Earl of Southampton, created Viscount of Tiviot, Oct. 20, 1685.

upon the Declaration, I have mislaid or it is taken away.¹ Another paper sent me with the Letter to the Dissenter vanished, so that I never read it; that kind of title has kept it in my head ever since. Your curiosity, Doctor, is sure blameless, though very mean are most of the amusements of a life to endure so little a while, as the longest is upon earth.

The result of the matter of Magdalene College is known to you before this, and will be to us here, I hope, to-morrow.²

I am glad my sister has the advantage of so good company as yourself in her solitude, so I reckon

¹ "Of the numerous pamphlets in which the cause of the Court and the cause of the Church were at this time eagerly and anxiously pleaded before the Puritan, now, by a strange turn of fortune, the arbiter of the fate of his persecutors, one only is still remembered, the 'Letter to a Dissenter.' In this masterly little tract all the arguments which could convince a Non-conformist that it was his duty and his interest to prefer an alliance with the Church to an alliance with the Court, were condensed into the smallest compass, arranged in the most perspicuous order, illustrated with lively wit, and enforced by an eloquence earnest indeed, yet never in its utmost vehemence transgressing the limits of exact good sense and good breeding. The effect of this paper was immense; for, as it was only a single sheet, more than twenty thousand copies were circulated by the post. The Government was greatly irritated, and spared no pains to discover the author. Some imagined that they recognised the sentiments and diction of Temple. But, in truth, that amplitude and acuteness of intellect, that vivacity of fancy, that terse and energetic style, that placid dignity, half courtly, half philosophical, which the utmost excitement of conflict could not for a moment derange, belonged to Halifax, and to Halifax alone."—Macaulay's "England," vol. ii. p. 220.

² An interesting account of King James's arbitrary proceedings in this matter is given in Mr. Macaulay's "History of England," vol. ii. p. 287.

Windsor now, and suppose her Lord makes frequent 1687.
visits to London; there I expect to meet you when
December is begun, that am,

Your obliged sincere servant.

Oct. 22, 1687.

We have just heard the very ill news of the
Princess's miscarriage. God comfort her, poor
Lady.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

It is a reproach to myself, good Doctor, that
I have not once since you went given you this mark
of my respect; but it has come to pass, I think,
from an invincible necessity; nothing else can
excuse it to myself, and that I know will to you,
who I believe will not soon accuse me of a crime
I intend never to deserve to have laid to my charge.
The truth is, Sir, the great affair you know me
engaged in takes up both my time and thoughts.
Many difficulties are met with by the manner of
the settlements, and yet not got over: one week
more I hope will make me guess at the issue.

This day Miss Noel is made a wife, and my girls
are but just come from the ceremony; I should
have spoke properly to have said yesterday, for I
hear it strike one o'clock, yet I had company would
sit to see my girls come home; and I could not
leave this to be written to-morrow, for I am to be

1688. in my coach at seven o'clock to dine with my sister Montague at Windsor.

The news most talked of is, the King has sent to call over the English forces out of Holland;¹ the French papers will tell the rest. The town is full of what you or I have little to do with, balls and rejoicings.² It is time to close this from,

Your faithful friend to serve you to my power.

Jan. 27, 1687-8.

One o'clock in the morning.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

Just after I had retrieved time enough to scribble to you, and enclose some French papers, I received yours of 24th January, which, though you would not term it such, I made as a sort of kind reproof, and indeed I had a guilt upon me, that it might justly be so, for I am ready to own I have received obligations enough from Doctor Fitzwilliam to

¹ On the 17th of January, he wrote to the States General to demand the six English and Scotch regiments that were in their service. The 2nd of March he issued out a proclamation, "forbidding his natural born subjects to enter or enlist themselves in the service of any foreign prince or state, either by sea or land. The States did not think proper to send these regiments to the King in the present juncture."—*Rapin*, vol. ii. p. 762, folio.

² On the 23rd of December, 1687, a proclamation issued, appointing the 15th of January to be observed as a thanksgiving for the Queen's being with child, within the bills of mortality; and the 29th of January in the rest of the churches of England.

make me careful to give him the mean content 1688. of such letters as mine. But in earnest I am in a great and constant hurry, from my careful endeavours to do my duty to my child,¹ and to my friend, sister Margaret Russell,² which, by God's grace, I design to do as cordially as to my children. I meet with many difficulties in both; yet, in my girl's, there is no stop but such as the former settlements cause, which from any we can learn of yet, will hinder a conclusion till he is sixteen.

I thank you, good Doctor, for your kind offer, which, whether I accept or not, I am sure I shall do all in a kind respect to you, and preserve the sense of your esteem to me and mine, and shall be sorry if I make not use of it in the way you desire I would take liberty to do.

I trust, if I perfect this great work, my careful endeavours will prosper; only the Almighty knows what the event shall be; but sure it is a glimmering of light I did not look for in my dark day. I do often repeat in my thoughts, the children of the just shall be blessed: I am persuaded their father was such; and if my heart deceive me not, I intend the being so, and humbly bless God for it.

I can send you no good news; the best (in my opinion at least) is, if true what some say, we shall have no war, nor parliament. Here was lately

¹ Her daughter's intended marriage.

² Lord Stafford's addresses to Lady Margaret Russell.

1688. great talk of setting out twenty sail to join the French fleet; many are divided about a parliament, whether one shall be called or not. My boy said at dinner, it is a year of great wars, marriages, and robbing. To make good the second, it is reported Lord Halifax is treating for the Lord Kent's son, and Lady Essex for Lord Carlisle's.¹ Something of both I fancy there is. Some murders here have been, which no doubt have reached you before this will. But there is a private piece of news I know you will be sorry for. Poor Lord Gainsborough was seized on Tuesday s'ennight with a dead palsy all on one side; his speech returned quickly, and the last news was, he was much mended, had stirred his leg, but not his arm, and my niece writ they feared he did not see with the eye on that side, but were loth to ask, for fear of disheartening him: if we hear he has passed a week, I hope he may recover to some degree.

Queen Dowager's² resolutions for Portugal cannot be new to you; it occasions much talk; her humour and way of living not warning any to suspect she would retire out of the world. Lord Oxford has at last his regiment taken from him.³

¹ Charles Howard, third Earl of Carlisle, married Lady Anne Capel, only surviving daughter of Arthur, first Earl of Essex.

² Catherine, Queen Dowager of Charles II., did not go to Portugal till March 30, 1692, alleging the great debt due to her by the King disabling her.

³ Aubrey de Vere, twentieth Earl of Oxford, who died in 1703, with-

It is said the King told him he did not do it in 1688, regard to his religion, but his factiousness of mind, for his Majesty would have the test. The Queen goes on prosperously; has seen two plays at Whitehall. Now you have all the reports I can make, I take my leave, and turn you to the Gazettes. Here are some pamphlets, but I know not if you care to have them sent this way, and perhaps you have them already; as reflections on Fagell's letter;¹ also reflections on the relation of the English Reformation lately printed at Oxford.²

I am, good Doctor,
Your faithful friend.

Feb. 10, 1687-8.

The late audience at Court was new; Dominicans in their habits as ambassadors from Cologne. Corker³ that was tried, is the chief, and is to live here at St. James's or Lincoln's Inn Fields; for the Papists

out male issue. He fell into disgrace with James, and joined King William on his arrival in England.

¹ A letter to Mr. Stewart, giving an account of the Prince and Princess of Orange's thoughts concerning the Repeal of the Test and Penal Laws by Mynheer Gaspar, Baron de Fagel. Amst. 1688. 4to. There are other pamphlets on this subject *pro* and *con*. They may be seen in the library of the London Institution.

² Reasons for abrogating the Test imposed upon all Members of Parliament. Lond. 1688. 4to. by Samuel Parker, Bishop of Oxford. Evelyn writes in his "Diary" on his death, "He was esteemed a violent, passionate, haughty man, but yet being pressed to declare for the Church of Rome he utterly refused it. A remarkable end."

³ James Corker, a Benedictine Monk, was tried for being concerned in the Popish Plot, but acquitted in July, 1679.

1688. have bought Lord Barkley's in the one place, and Lady Bath's in the other.

THE PRINCESS OF ORANGE TO LADY RUSSELL.

I HOPE my Lady Russell will do me the justice to believe I would not have kept three of the letters so long without answering, had I not wanted an opportunity of sending mine. But I hope Mr. Russell¹ who brought me one, will find a way to send this to you, for I can stay no longer from desiring you to make no more excuses for writing. If you knew the esteem I have for you, you would be persuaded your letters could not be too troublesome: and since you will make me believe it is some satisfaction to you, I shall desire you to continue, for I assure you I am extreme glad to contribute any way I can to that. I hope this match of your daughter's will afford you all the joy and comfort you can desire. I don't question but you have made a very good choice; and since I wish so well to my Lord Devonshire, I can't but be glad it is his son, believing you will have taught your daughter, after your own example, to be so good a wife, that Lord Cavendish can't choose but be very happy with her. I assure you I wish it with all my heart,

¹ Afterwards Earl of Orford. He was much employed by the Whig party, in communicating with the Prince of Orange on the eve of the Revolution.

and if that could contribute anything to your content, you may be sure of as much as it is possible for you to have ; and not only my wishes, but upon all occasions, I shall be glad to show more than by words the esteem I have for you.

MARIE.

Hague, Feb. 13, 1687-8.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE read your letter enough to know your thoughts upon several matters, but not as I would do deliberately, or to examine how heartily I join with you in every point ; nor will I defer writing till I do ; though I never had less time (if so little) at my own disposal ; so that unless I dispatch this, it is very likely I may delay till next post. I meet with hard difficulties in the lawyers' hands ; we are forced to be with a great many of that profession, which is very troublesome at this time to me, who would fain be delivered from them, conclude my affair, and so put some period to that inroad methinks I make in my intended manner of living the rest of my days on earth. But I hope my duty shall always prevail above the strongest inclination I have. I believe to assist my yet helpless children, is my business ; which makes me take many dinners abroad, and do of that nature many things, the performance of which

1688. is hard enough to a heavy and weary mind ; but yet I bless God I do it.

Letters came out of Holland on Wednesday night, which, in as respectful terms as is possible in that case, refuse to send the troops, saying, they have cost them a great deal, they are threatened on all hands, and know of no capitulation which obliges them to send them, the King being quiet at home and abroad. But if his Majesty had occasion, they would soon send them, and many more to his aid ; and for such officers as would retire from them they were at liberty.

I have been told the King should say, Amsterdam had better intentions, but the parts of the States prevailed, who, perhaps, had a mind to quarrel, but seemed to imply he had none. This piece of news I would insert, though I have a man of business by me, whom I must speak to when I have closed this.

Sister Alington has sold her house to Lord Bristow, so is kept still in town. Lady Manchester was married last Wednesday to a fourth son¹ of

¹ Charles Montague, afterwards Earl of Halifax; he was praised by Addison and Steele, but satirized by Pope—

“ Proud as Apollo on his forked hill,
Sate full-blown Bufo, puff'd by every quill.”

Epistle to Arbuthnot.

“ The Hind and Panther transversed ; or, the City and Country Mouse,” was the joint production of Montague and Prior. “ It was written,” says Sir Walter Scott, in his note on Dryden’s Works, “ to ridi-

George Montague, a man of twenty-four; the same 1688. was said to have writ the answer to the Hind and Panther. Lord Gainsborough is better. I have writ your compliments this morning to sister Montague.

Next week you shall have the letters you ask for, and the Reflections on the Reformer. I do not justify the sharpness of them; though I wish him very well that is guilty of the fault, the other justly deserves it.

Feb. 17, 1687-8.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

You are the most encouraging Doctor I ever knew. If I went fast in that affair, which perhaps takes up my thoughts too much, I believe you would seek and find some parallel to comfort me in my proceedings, which I am apt enough to think are done with a very poor conduct. Certainly to work alone, as it is said, so it often leaves one doubtful, but none can do more than they are fitted for; my will is with the best I am sure, and my hope is great that I am assisted with the best Director of our minds, and Disposer of all events: so I go quietly on, desire great diligence in all my actions, and expect by that slowness you so well

cule Dryden's poem, and turns chiefly upon the incongruity of the emblems Dryden adopted, and the inconsistencies into which his plan led him."

1688. approve of, to discover at one time what I cannot in another, that so I may complete this great work with as few errors as I can reasonably expect to make. I have a well-bred Lord to deal with, yet inflexible, if the point is not to his advantage. I am to meet him this morning at eleven o'clock at the lawyer's chambers, proposing to give a finishing stroke to the agreement between us, and then the deeds will be drawn in a few more weeks, I hope, and this matter perfected. That of Lady Margaret is to Lord Strafforde. God knows there are many exceptions, but the gentleman is a worthy, honest man, and made an indulgent husband to the Earl of Darby's daughter. He is afflicted with stone and gout.¹

I could not have imagined the accident of the penknife would have proved so bad a business; you must owe it to your own neglect: and your happy and profitable reflections upon it to the goodness of God.

I now send you the book you would have;

¹ William Wentworth, second Earl of Strafford, married first, Lady Mary Stanley, daughter to James Earl of Derby, the match in question did not take place, as Lord Strafford married for his second wife, Henrietta, daughter to Frederick Charles de Roye de la Rochefoucauld.

² Most probably, three tracts by Burnet,—1. "An Enquiry into the Reasons for abrogating the Test," &c. 4to. 1688. 2. "A Second Part of the Enquiry," &c. 4to. 1688. 3. "A Continuation of it," 4to. 1688. The two last-mentioned tracts were published together subsequently, under the title "A Discourse concerning Transubstantiation and Idolatry, being an Answer to the Bishop of Oxford's Plea relating to these Two Points," 4to. 1688.

there are two sheets more as answers, or resolutions 1688. to the Bishop of Oxford: one sheet treats of idolatry; the other of transubstantiation, more loosely writ than the first; the party, I hope, stands corrected. I cannot yet procure a sight of them, for more time than I just took to read them, the bulk of them being seized. But there is a Treatise of the nature of Idolatry, which eclipses all others, as the wise say; if you want it I will send it next week; as also a *Parliamentum Pacificum*¹ which is hugely cried up.

You know my appointment, and while I am thus employed have something to do to remember it. I am undressed at ten o'clock.

Good Doctor,

I am ever your faithful friend and servant.

Nothing but one so unthoughtful as myself could forget to thank you for your cheeses; when eating will not remember one, I know not what can. All our supping company are your servants.

March 16, 1687-8.

¹ "*Parliamentum Pacificum*; or, the happy Union of King and People in an healing Parliament, asserting Fagel's Letter to be a Forgery, or at least not approved by the Prince and Princess," by John Northleigh, M.D. 4to., 1688, author of several other tracts about this time; the one in question is not mentioned in Watt's *Bib. Brit.* A copy of the pamphlet is in the British Museum. Burnet confuted this in his "*Reflections on Parliamentum Pacificum*," 4to. 1688.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

1688. WHEN I tell you, good Doctor, the errand of this paper (that is the immediate one), you will not expect it should be long. It is to tell you my child was married yesterday.¹ I hope the prospect is good, and God's Holy Spirit has been my director in this whole affair. I do not ask your prayers; I know I have had them, and have them still. Dean Sharp performed the office; and now I take leave for this time; it is the only letter I shall write to-day, I guess, being yet in some hurry. We all dine at Lord Devonshire's to-day; one week more will set me at leisure, I trust to consider of this sad season of the year; to me, though sadly, not unusefully, I trust in God.

I am your faithful friend.

June 22, 1688.

Lord Devonshire interrupted me yesterday morning as I was just going to put up my letter, to make his present of a pair of diamond pendants, and stayed so long I forgot this letter till it was too late, so I send it now by the post.

¹ Rachel, elder daughter of Lord and Lady Rachel Russell, married Lord Cavendish, second Duke of Devonshire, K.G.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

GOOD Doctor, my careful attendance on my 1688. young couple at London, kept me in so perpetual a hurry, that I had not my mean ordinary comprehension in things. For an instance to you I could not by your last of the 5th find where you were ; from home I saw, but did not see the W. before the date, which I do not wonder at from the badness of my eyes, and reading hastily ; but I do, that by your discourse in it, I should not find you at Windsor, but so it was, I did not, nor guessed at it, till sister Montague told me at nine o'clock at night, you were there. I did as soon resolve to send you a line or two, but was defeated ; company I found at home great store, and business, when rid of them ; so that having no time my own all day, when I heard it strike two o'clock I went to bed, hoping for a moment in the morning ; but though I rise at five I was mistress of none ; at half an hour past six was to be in the coach, and which I was the more careful to be, because Lord Bedford, who went earlier, would stay dinner for me ; we drove so well he did not, and that night, I bless God, we got all well to this place. The pensive quiet I hope for here, I think, will be very grateful to my weary body and mind ; yet when I contem-

1688. plate the fruits of the trial and labour of these last six months, it brings some comfort to my mind, as an evidence that I do not live only to lament my misfortunes, and be humbled by those heavy chastisements I have felt, and must for ever in this life press me sorely. That I have not sunk under the pressure has been I hope in mercy, that I might be better fitted for my eternal state; and form the children of a loved husband before I go hence. With these thoughts I can be hugely content to live; and the rather as the clouds seem to gather and threaten storms; though God only knows how I may acquit myself, and what help I may be, or what example I shall give to my young creatures; I mean well towards them, if I know my heart. I wish I could advise you substantially, to the end you ask it for about a lawyer. I know few, and made use of but one, who appears to me an ingenious and honest man; it is Mr. Evers of Lincoln's Inn, but he is so exceedingly full of business, it makes him slow to dispatch; he seems to me to be a man of integrity, and I think not a High-churchman in his principles. I give the hint, that if you should happen to converse with him, you may know the better how to do it without distaste.

You caution me to mollify, by a right construction, any expression of yours that may be hardly worded: you need not do it, for if at any time there should be cause (as I know none) I shall not

fail to do as you desire, who in all things will 1688.
endeavour to appear

Your most grateful friend and servant,

July 19, 1688.

If you call here, you will be very welcome.

LADY RUSSELL TO LADY ALINGTON.

I PERCEIVE, sister, you are very tender in regard to the persons of others, but rigid to your own self, or you would never imagine a remaining guilt where I fancy there was never any; for I can either allow myself to think my brother in some fault, or have such a deference to your judgment as to believe there was none anywhere. However it was, my request was not scorned, and so my end was served, and I am yours with great respect, and very sorry you have had any new interruption in your health; I learn from my Lord Bedford it was accidental, by putting ice to a wrong use. I take it to be an ingredient almost as dangerous in a family as ratsbane, servants being so ill judges of its use. The good consequence of country air, I believe, would be as much advantageous to you, if you would take it, as we shall find it: the season is temperate and pleasant. The rest and pensive quiet of it is very grateful to me, whose body nor mind is fitted for

1688. the hurry of the last six months; and I wish I may so profit of the time I may make my own here, as to repair in some measure my want then, by being so busy in worldly matters. Yet it was such a duty, and in appearance I was so blessed in it, that this reflection was sometimes a refreshment to me, that I did not live only to grieve at, and be humbled, for those heavy chastisements my soul has felt and must still feel, till my eternal rest, where we shall weep nor sorrow no more. I am so apt to exceed all bounds when I let myself loose on some subjects, that nothing can recover me, but a short breaking off, which I will do with this assurance of my being,

Your humble servant and sister.

August 25, 1688.

DR. TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

HONOURED MADAM,

I received yours the night before I was going for Tunbridge, at my return from whence I did fully design to have sent a line or two to have inquired after the welfare of your Ladyship and your children; but I see it is in vain to contend with a goodness which doth always prevent the most forward of your friends and servants. I am now newly returned from thence, where I left the good Princess very well, and I think much better than ever I saw her.

That very evening I parted from your Ladyship at 1688. the Tabernacle, I received by two messengers, two letters from my wife, who in the first told me she feared my child was dying, which troubled me much; in the other that she was perfectly well, which amazed me more. Thus it was—when the child was grown very weak, all on the sudden there gushed from her head down her nose with great violence a good quantity of water, which brought along with it a pretty big piece of cork, which either the child herself, or one of her little brothers had thrust up into her nose, where it had remained above six weeks; by the stoppage and pain whereof the child was extremely wasted, but from the moment it came away was at perfect ease; so soon can God when he pleases turn our mourning into joy. I trouble your Ladyship with a more particular account of this, because you are pleased to be concerned for me; and your advice to leave off syringing, which I told your Ladyship did always put the child into grievous agonies, was by God's good providence very happy for the child, because it would probably have forced up the cork so far, that it could not have been got down.

I came to town on purpose two or three days after, to have prevented your Ladyship's further trouble of searching out the papers, for which I most humbly thank you, and have no occasion now to call for them. But I found your Ladyship gone

1688. the day before ; and now it is time to come to your letter, and to tell your Ladyship how glad I am to hear that all your family are well, and that you meet with some rest after your toil and labour in a business, from which I heartily pray that you and your good daughter may reap all the comfort and satisfaction that you can wish ; and that the present appearances of things seem so fairly to promise. But I need not tell to your Ladyship how little reckoning is to be made of any of the comforts of this world. All our hopes but those of another world are built upon uncertainty and vanity. Till we come to the regions above, we shall never be out of the reach of storms and tempests. Thither let us always be aspiring in our minds, and pressing forward towards that blessed state. But why do I say this to one that hath a much more lively sense of these things ?

I pray God to preserve my Lord Cavendish in his travels from the hazards of all kinds to which he is likely to be exposed ; and to return him to you and to his excellent lady greatly improved in all true, noble, and virtuous qualities. My mind doth presage much happiness to you in him ; I am sure I earnestly wish it. I will not forget your commands of congratulation when I see my Lord. As for my friend¹ who is so mindful in the midst of his prosperity of his old friends, I beg of your Ladyship

¹ Doctor Fitzwilliam.

when you have the opportunity to let him know, 1688. that I have a true sense of his constant friendship. For the paper he mentions, I believe it is well received generally on both sides.¹ For men's heats are much allayed, and they have now patience to hear of their faults, if they be told them in a civil way, without anger and ill-will, as that paper does with great skill, considering the nicety and tenderness of the subject. So that, if it hath not fully pleased both, it hath the good fortune to have provoked neither. It is too much according to my mind, for me to be fit to commend it. I will only say this of it, that it is both very artificial, and very honest—two things which seldom meet together.

I ought now to make a long apology for this long trouble I have given you, but I will not, in excuse of one fault, commit another.

I pray God to preserve you and yours, and to send us a good meeting at your return to London. In the meantime, and for ever, I must remain,

Honoured Madam,

Your Ladyship's obliged,

And most humble servant,

JO. TILLOTSON.

Canterbury, Sept. 6, 1688.

¹ "The Absolute Impossibility of Transubstantiation Demonstrated." London: 1688, folio, by Samuel Johnson, Chaplain to Lord Russell, and well known for his exertions in the cause of Protestantism.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

1688. IF you could, good Doctor, see the letter I left in my closet at London, it would be a demonstration to you, that no hasty or irregular motion puts my friends out of my mind; for though I failed in the executive part, yet I was not careless in that took up more of my time. I very formally wrote my letter, laid by the Gazettes, and then, as in our best endeavours we often do spoil all, by some defect in the close, so did I now, by forgetting to give my letter to be sent to you.

I was but two whole days in town, went on Saturday, was early back on Tuesday, found all here well, as I bless God I left them, and all at London in amaze, all talking of the same matter; and I believe there is no considerable change since, for it was then agreed the Prince of Orange could not be ready for sailing till this day.¹ This sort of weather and wind keeps the apprehensions at a distance, and, if it continues any time, may possibly disperse them altogether; but it is known to God alone what shall be the event of these things. We may wonder, and heartily say, his ways are unsearchable, and past finding out.

¹ "The wind, which had hitherto been west, was east all this day. Wonderful expectation of the Dutch fleet. Public prayers order'd to be read in the churches against invasion."—Evelyn's "Diary," vol. ii. p. 656.

Those are happy, who in the midst of confusions 1688. can faithfully believe the end of all shall be rest; and if we can evidence to our hearts, we have a title according to the promises of the gospel, to that happy rest, what can be a very uneasy disturbance? Nothing should be I am certain; yet we find pretences for it. I think I fear not for myself, but I am afraid what risk my children may run; and if that were not, our weak faith would furnish us out with some other reason to justify, as we fancy, our too great carefulness. I will do what I can not to exceed, and so bid you adieu for this time.

Oct. 1, 1688.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

SUCH letters as yours, Sir, do not disturb my quiet, but quiet my disturbance. Before this, I guess, if mine of the 5th does not miscarry one way, as that will tell you another did another way, you will know I wanted not yours to draw your return from me. I forgot when I wrote on Friday, to put up the Gazettes, nor are they entire now, for my journey to London put me and them out of order, and all of late date are wanting. The winds keep them back, as it does, as the King says, the Dutch at a distance from us. Thus we are experimenting how much God can restrain the spirit of Princes, and by holding in the winds, disappoint

1688. the greatest, and doubtless, as they think, the wisest laid designs.

What has passed between the Bishops and the King is, we are told, a secret; but things are coming about into their old channel, above any expectation you or I had when we met last.¹

I have scarce had time to run over your philosophical lecture, but I suppose if I had, or when I have read it at more leisure over, I shall not find myself very well furnished to use many words in my answer; now I have none, for my letters are called for, and the company come into my chamber, which I keep for a great cold. I have been complaining in most of my letters, how near to nothing I am when this poor carcase is diseased, so very feeble in my mind and body; but I mend my opinion of myself now I read how listless you are upon such another occasion. I am glad yours is

¹ "The King gave an audience to all the Bishops who were then in London. The Primate was spokesman. He respectfully asked that the administration might be put into the hands of persons duly qualified; that all acts done under pretence of the dispensing power might be revoked; that the Ecclesiastical Commission might be annulled; that the wrongs of Magdalen College might be redressed; and that the old franchises of the municipal corporations might be restored. The King commanded himself sufficiently to return thanks for this unpalatable counsel, and promised to consider what he had said. Of the dispensing power he would not yield one tittle. But some of Sancroft's suggestions were adopted. Within forty-eight hours the Court of High Commission was abolished, and a week later the Bishop of Winchester had it in charge from the King to correct whatever was amiss in that society. In a few days appeared a proclamation restoring the forfeited franchises of all the municipal corporations."—Macaulay's "England," vol. ii. p. 466.

near over ; mine is but begun, nor would my letter 1688. be more I think, if I had time to enlarge. The *Anatomy of an Equivalent* is the newest good paper I know ; I have been lent it only to read, and have it not any more.¹

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD CAVENDISH.

MY LORD,

As yours, wrote 16th October, has lain by me many days, so I may say, and justify the saying it, that I have as often been desirous to tell you how welcome these marks of respect and remembrance are to me ; but I will not by insignificant letters make often waste of so precious a thing as time is, which, if misspent, can never be recovered, since it can never be recalled ; and if employed as such by you, as I doubt not but it is, you are then a gainer by every moment of it, to the honour and pleasure, I trust, of many years : and that you may do so, and then be so rewarded for your ingenious labour, you have the strongest wish of my affectionate heart, and constant prayers to the great Dispenser of all good to us his creatures.

I am glad that in your solitude (for such I esteem

¹ Written by George Savile, Marquis of Halifax. In the "Ellis Correspondence," vol. ii. p. 172, it is said to make "a great noise, and is censured according to each man's passion. It is very sharp and biting, though the application be veiled over, and is said to be writ by a noble peer."

1688. your stay at Brussels) you have met with so good a companion as Lord Kingston.¹ I resist my will when I do not urge you
 &c. But finding you are going further from us, I must tell you how concernedly my prayers and best wishes attend you. Your return would be a time of more sensible content to me, and yet if I were to dispose of your person, what you are to do should be my choice for you; for to live well in the world, it is for certain most necessary to know the world well. We are under the same protection in all places where we can be. 'Tis very true the circumstances of our beings do sometimes require our better diligence and watch over ourselves, than at other times; and it is now going to be so with your Lordship: you are launching into the ocean; if you steer wisely, you secure a calm for your whole life; you will discern the vanity of all the pomps and glories of this world; how little intrinsic good there is in the enjoyment! and how uncertain it is how long we shall enjoy that good there is in them! And by observation, you will be made sensible how much below the dignity of human nature it is to gain one's point, let the matter be what it will, by any mean or insincere way.

Having proved all, I hope you will choose the

¹ William fourth Earl of Kingston, of that title, which became extinct in the person of Evelyn second Duke of Kingston in 1773.

best, and take under your care the whole compass¹⁶⁸⁸.
of virtue and religion.

Oct. 1688.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

My good intention has been hid from you, good Doctor, by my letter, &c. failing to come to your hands, which I sent the 21st of this month, as I find it upon record in my noted paper; there is nothing lost by it, except that mark which writing gives of my respect towards you; and that you do not question, I believe.

We in the country are still kept under wonder and expectation; the cloud is very thick that is spread over us; but this is our support (if we can but maintain our courage for awhile) that nothing that can befall us can hurt us much; being the power of man reaches no further than these frail bodies, that must, however, in a little while lie down, until that glorious day of the Lord, when all men's works shall be tried by a right judgment. Then shall we see many justified that have stood condemned with the world; till then I desire to wait with patience.

I have told you before, if my paper has at all come to you, that Lord Bedford is preparing to remove from this place, if the Prince lands northwards, to Chenies, in Buckinghamshire.

258 LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF STRAFFORD.

1688. I hear Lord Cavendish¹ is well at Brussels; he says he has much of my Lord Kingston's company, who, being there, will stay till he hears a little more from hence. God have you in his protection, is the prayer of

Your friend and servant.

Oct. 28, 1688.

The Duchess of Somerset I hear has a girl.

LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF STRAFFORD.²

MY LORD,

I have very justly obeyed the commands of your Lordship's last letter, 30th October, both to my Lord Bedford and my sister; and had not failed sooner to have made my report of doing so to your Lordship, and with what sentiments they received your valuable esteem, and so resolved an affection, as you express; but I had put my letter into Lady Clinton's³ hands before I had showed it to my Lord

¹ "In the month of August, Lord Cavendish was sent to finish his education by travelling on the Continent. His father was probably not sorry that he should be out of the way of the difficult scenes that were likely to ensue, while he was yet too young to take an active part in them. He was first sent to Brussels, and from thence into France and Italy, and remained above two years abroad, returning to England at the end of the year 1690."—Miss Berry's Memoir, p. 86.

² William second Earl of Strafford. He died Oct., 1695.

³ Probably, Susan, daughter to Anthony Penniston, Esq., the second wife of Sir Edward Clinton, afterwards sixth Earl of Lincoln.

Bedford, and so stayed for its return to me, which 1688. that good Lady took care it should do, with some advantage, sending with it a particular how the money for Stowel was disposed of. I believe I might accidentally induce her to it, though my words did not require it; which were only, that if the money was not so paid, as that the portion would clear the jointure, I foresaw a rock not to be got over, if times should so settle, that business of such a nature could proceed. And truly, my Lord, I think discouragements do visibly wear illegible, but the storm rather increases, that will not admit of leisure for dispatches of this nature. I am charged with more respectful compliments from my Lord Bedford than I know how to express; and when our troubles are, by the power and mercy of God, less violent, I shall watch the time to please your Lordship in my reports, better than it has been my fortune of late to do, though I have at all times equally desired to approve myself.

Nov. 25, 1688.

LADY RUSSELL TO LADY CLINTON.

It is fit your Ladyship should know I received your letter, and the enclosed, which was more than looked for, the meaning I had being only to hint what blocks I feared might be found, when other difficulties might be surmounted; but you are too watchful a friend to leave anything undone, which

1688. may be of the least use. I hope the money is well husbanded, though I want skill to know justly what the portion may discharge.

But, Madam, nothing, I think, can just now occasion a resolution for a treaty, the cloud over us hangs too heavy. I have wrote this post to my Lord, and hope he will not complain, at least not of

November 25, 1688.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

TRULY, good Doctor, you are very condescending, to take my pretending to advise in so good part; I thought I had a good assurance you would do so, or I should not have been so free, being nobody abounds less in their own sense than I believe I do; but where I wish well, and suppose it will be well taken, I speak freely. I was not apt to think you ever were vain or lavish in your own layings out, only, perhaps, not restraining enough in very allowable expenses; nay, commendable ones in another age; but the prospect at home called upon us to provide: yet, while I am reflecting thus wisely, I feel who wants severe reproof, and cannot draw up so unblamable a particular as you have taken the pains to do; but however it is, we can only do our best for the time to come; and I pray God to put the same earnest care into the hearts of all the people of this nation. There is no time so hazardous

but the righteous and the repentant may run into 1688. Him and be safe; and if we must not escape the judgments of the sword, yet I trust it shall cut off only such, as most notoriously cumber God's ground: and that in the midst of wrath He will remember mercy, if we will but meet Him in his judgments, as miserable sinners ought to do; and as I question not but numbers in this land do.

It was surprising to hear of the Princess's absenting herself,¹ but one hears every day so much, which is so, that unless one would write a volume, it is not easy to enter on the subject of news; and yet it being more difficult to rest on any other, I will conclude this from

Your ever affectionate friend and servant.

Nov. 30, 1688.

TO LADY MARGARET RUSSELL.²

November 29, 1688.

I HAVE taken a larger size of paper, that I may have more room to quarrel with Lady Margaret for saying so unkind a thing as that she obliges me with a short letter, it being a civility I never was guilty of to your Ladyship: but since you have given me the example, I will endeavour to practise

¹ Princess Anne went away Nov. 25.

² The above letter, written from London on the 29th November, 1688, addressed to Lady Margaret Russell at Woburn, although containing merely the reports and gossip of the moment, may not be unentertaining to the reader.

1688. it. I hoped you had been so just as to believe that, next your company, you could not more oblige me than with a letter; and the longer they were, the greater favour they were esteemed by your humble servant. I have not had the happiness of seeing your aunt Bristol, or hearing anything of her a great while: the last I did was when she was in tears for her nephew Frank's revolt, and that so many of her family should be rebels to the Crown. I heard the great Lady¹ (said) she could not go to bed last winter till she had heard one said lately that she hated all the Russells. I fear all this together will break my good friend's heart. I confess I never longed more to see her than I do now, but I think she stirs little abroad. Mr. Francis Russell's coach and six, and all his baggage, were taken going to him. Soon after the Prince landed, the packet-boat was taken going to Holland, but nothing of any great consequence, as I heard of. Letters of his to the States and other Princes, and one of Dr. Burnet's to his dear, and William Harbord's to his wife, with my dear and my duck, &c. &c., and Mr. Foster's to his lady to send him some beds, lodgings being very ill. They serve to make jests on, but little else, I think. Mrs. Boyle has a daughter. I hear, but how true, I cannot tell you, that the match is going on again with Miss Allington and Lord Fanshaw. The Duke of Albemarle is dead. Lord

¹ James the Second's queen, Mary of Modena.

Dover is gone to Portsmouth, being governor of 1688. that place in the Duke of Berwick's room. Lord Milford and Duke of Northumberland are made of the bedchamber, in Lord Churchill's and Duke of Grafton's places. They say Lord Feversham was upon his knees two hours, and cried and begged the King but to secure Lord Churchill; but he would believe nothing ill of him. Mr. Griffin is made a lord, and to be called Lord Griffin, for his fidelity. They say the Queen is told Lady Cornbury¹ lines all her gowns with orange colour, and wears nothing but orange ribbons. They say our young Prince is to be brought back again next week from Portsmouth, and put into the Bishop of Canterbury's hands to be brought up: you may believe it, if you please. The great guns came by us yesterday, into town again; but the ammunition, I think, is lost. The King goes to Windsor to-morrow, and there, it is said, will encamp all his army that is left; but the good Queen stays to govern us here. The Lords and Bishops that were summoned on Tuesday, pressed very hard for a free Parliament: the King took till next morning to consider of it, and then agreed to it; and Lord Chancellor gave order for the writs to be ready to-day, that no time may be lost; so it is to be called with all speed, and Commissioners, they say, are to be sent to the Prince, to know what he

¹ Lady Catherine O'Bryen, sole daughter of the Lord O'Bryen, eldest son of Henry, sixth Earl of Thomond.

1688. demands. The town names Lord Halifax, Lord Nottingham, Lord Carberry, for the Commissioners; the two first were sent for yesterday, and were a great while with the King alone. Lord Lumley, they say, has secured Newcastle, and some other Lords, Hull; Lord Bath has taken Lord Huntingdon prisoner at Plymouth: his lady desired he might be exchanged for Lord Lovelace, who the Papists say is released. Lord Devonshire, they say, when the Prince's declaration was read, and that part of being invited in by the Lords Temporal and Spiritual, declared he was one, and Lord Delamere did the same, and it is said they declared for the King, the Protestant religion and a free Parliament. Skelton is made Governor of the Tower, which it is said the City is less satisfied with than with Hales. We have no news of the Princess, but hope she is safe. It is said there was an order out that morning to have secured her. The Prince George of Denmark made his escape with the Duke of Ormond, much after the same manner: supped with the King, on Saturday night, and went to bed, but soon rose again, and it is said made it his business at supper to condemn those that were gone, and how little such people were to be trusted, and sure the Prince could put no confidence in such, &c. Lady Littleton talks of coming after Christmas, if things are settled here.

I have not kept my promise at the beginning, so

hard it is for me to break an old custom; but to 1688. punish you a little, at present, is no grief to me, being not at this time Lady Margaret's humble servant. Lord Dumbarton seized Colonel Kirke at the head of 3000 or 4000 men, going, as was suspected, to the Prince of Orange; and he is brought to London, and to be tried, as it is said by a council of war. Lord Halifax, they say, made the most tender and obliging speech at Council that was ever heard; but they do not give that character of Lord Clarendon's, but the contrary. Duke of Berwick has Lord Churchill's troop of guards, or the Duke of Grafton's, I know not which; and Lord Arran has his regiment of horse, and his brother his regiment. Colonel Kirke has been before the Council this day, and the King has taken his word, and he is only confined to his chamber. Lord Churchill and Prince George have written the most submissive letters to the King that can be, and it is said there is one from the Prince of Orange too, but that it is not known what is in it. Sir George Hewet is gone ten days ago, and Mr. Heningame.

Thursday night.

For the Right Hon. the Lady Margaret Russell,
at Wooburn Abby, Bedfordshire.

Wooborn Bagg.

1688.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I wish you prosperous, good Doctor, in your new economy, and hope it is so far off being too late, that it is too early to begin, more than is very decently prudent; since, I trust, we have some reasonable prospect to believe such as you yourself may live, and enjoy what is their own.

So great a change has appeared in the space of one month. May the great Dispensator of all these wonderful events dispose our hearts and minds, and direct them to a right use of so much mercy; and let it be his will to perfect the work He has to do among us, to the comfort of every serious and thoughtful Christian. It is a time, I confess, one would be very glad to spend some hours in free discourse with a friend there is no need to disguise any thought before; when it is denied, one must be content as one can.

I think, having stayed so long in the country, in the hurly-burly, we shall try it a little longer. The carriers and coachmen that come from the North, inform us many gentlemen in the North are in arms, all horse; that in Yorkshire they may have 10,000 as soon as they please; but they refuse all except horse; and that many Papists were got into Hull. This night's letters signify the

surprising of that place, and declaring for a free 1688. Parliament.

I am, Sir, and ever to continue such,
Your faithful friend and servant.

Dec. 8, 1688.

We have now got Gazettes again, so have sent them; though you hear too much, perhaps, to read where you are.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THERE needs no art to engage your belief of so sincere a truth, as I am going to write to you; that since I purposely read the last verse of the 73rd¹ Psalm, I have had more mind to scribble a few lines to you than I ever had in my life; not from any hope I have to speak anything will please me; my thoughts are too much crowded to get a passage to express what I feel. My religion and my country are dear to me, and my own hard fate will ever be as a green wound. I need say no more to you. I have been but too impatient to say so much. I have fancied it a sort of guilt not to do it, and a want of ingenuity not to find an opportunity; yet I met it not till now. If I had writ two months ago, I had had something to say from some of your friends that would be loss to your time to repeat. I will only

¹ But it is good for one to draw near to God. I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

1688. say the words of one of whose opinion you then desired concerning a sheet had been writ. They were these—"I know not how to commend what is so exactly my own sense, and the words I could have been glad to have said." I met with none of another mind. I was two or three days in London at that very instant of time, when the first consternation was upon some, for what has since fallen out, which is marvellous indeed! Those who have lived longest, and therefore seen the most change, can scarce believe it is more than a dream: yet it is indeed real, and so amazing a reality of mercy, as ought to melt and ravish our hearts into subjection and resignation to Him who is the dispenser of all providences.

1688.

THE LADY CAVENDISH TO ———.¹

February, 1689.²

It is a great affliction to me to be so far from my dear beloved *Silvia*, and to hear from her so seldom: how happy shall I be when I see you next; how many things I have to tell you: for I dare not trust affairs of so great concern in a letter. But when will that time come? I do not hear you speak of removing yet, to my grief. Pray leave

¹ Probably her cousin, Mrs. (Miss) Jane Allington.

² From Miss Berry's Memoir.

your ugly prison as soon as you can, and come to 1688. your *Dorinda*.¹ But now to my news: the House of Lords did vote that the Prince and Princess should be made King and Queen, and it was carried by a good many voices, for Lord Nottingham and many more came off. Lord Nottingham had a great mind to come off before, but could not tell which way: then the Commons agreed also that the Prince and Princess should be King and Queen, but that the Prince should have the sole administration of affairs in his hands; that the Princess should be no subject neither, as Queen Catherine and Queen Mary were, but a Sovereign Queen, and her name put in everything; but still he the management of affairs. This they agreed upon, and so did the Lords; then they went to the grievances (that is) the too great power of the crown. After they had agreed upon what power to give the King, and what to take away from him (the particulars of which I cannot tell you) my Lord Halifax, who is Chairman, went to the Banqueting House, where the Princess and Prince were, and made them a short speech,

¹ These names, given to herself and to her correspondent, and afterwards to the King and Queen, were taken from some of the fashionable romances of the day, perhaps *Clelia*; as in a letter addressed to Lady Cavendish, just before her marriage, the writer says:—"There will be no talking to your sister, when she has read *Clelia*; for the wise folks say it is the most improving book that can be read."—Dev. MSS. "I have, and yet am still alive, drudged through '*Le Grand Cyrus*,' in twelve huge volumes; '*Cleopatra*' in eight or ten; '*Polexander*,' '*Ibrahim*,' '*Clelie*,' and some others, whose names, as well as the rest of them, I have forgotten."—Mrs. Chapon to Mrs. Carter.

1688. desiring them in the name of all the Lords to accept of the Crown. The Prince answered him in a few words, and the Princess made curtsies. They say, when they named her father's faults, she looked down as if she was troubled; then Mr. Powle, the Speaker of the House of Commons, showed the Prince what they had agreed of, but made no speech. After this ceremony was ended, they proclaimed them King and Queen of England. Many of the churchmen would not have had it done that day, because it was Ash-Wednesday. I was at the sight, and, you may imagine, very much pleased to see *Ormanzor* and *Phenixana* proclaimed King and Queen of England, in the room of King James, my father's murderer. There was wonderful acclamations of joy, which, though they were very pleasing to me, yet they frightened me too; for I could not but think what a dreadful thing it is to fall into the hands of the rabble—they are such a strange sort of people. At night I went to Court with my Lady Devonshire, and kissed the Queen's hand, and the King's also. There was a world of bonfires, and candles almost in every house, which looked extremely pretty. The King applies himself mightily to business, and is wonderfully admired for his great wisdom and prudence in ordering all things. He is a man of no presence, but looks very homely at first sight; but if one looks long on him, he has something in his face both wise and good. But as for the Queen she is really altogether very handsome; her face is

very agreeable, and her shape and motions extremely graceful and fine. She is tall, but not so tall as the last Queen. Her room was mighty full of company, as you may guess."

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

Good Doctor,

I give you a thousand thanks for taking so very kindly of me all my impertinences, as most others would call them, but a good meaning excuses all to a good man. I do so little doubt of my interest to serve you, in the point you ask, at any time, that unless you urge the dispatch of it, I will defer the execution of it. I cannot now stay to expostulate why I would do so; but, in short, a hasty asking may alarm, and be thought to be an occasion of putting others on the same: and, perhaps, also before you would use the liberty you ask, accidents may abdicate your opinion. The reason of my haste is expecting every minute Doctor Lower to my daughter Cavendish, who was taken ill last night, in a manner, if she had not had the small-pox, one would guess she would have it. My sister Montague's son has been so too, that I forbore seeing him, but yesterday that fear passed over.

I am very faithfully

Your friend to serve you to my power.

Thursday, March, 16, 1688-9.

I hear the Doctor's coach.

LADY RUSSELL TO LORD HALIFAX.

MY LORD,

You must needs be so well acquainted with the solitudes most persons have in such affairs as touch them very near, that you will not think it very strange, Lady Shaftesbury and I have been prevailed upon by Mr. Cowper's¹ friends once again to press your Ladyship to weigh his case, and serve him in it if it may be. If His Majesty, when he granted this request in the behalf of Mr. Cowper, was pleased (as I understood from your Lordship) to express his sense of that favour as a thing extraordinary, and to make the irregularity of it an instance of his grace to Lady Shaftesbury and myself, we are ready to embrace His Majesty's concessions in the largest sense, being disposed to think as highly of his goodness as any circumstance can render it, and therefore would not controvert that point, though very understanding men, and several eminent disinterested persons of the profession of the law, are of a contrary opinion; and the frequent instances that are given of its having been done before, seem rather to prove it has been used as an

¹ William, afterwards first Earl Cowper, and Lord Chancellor, in the reign of George I. He died October 10, 1723. It was owing to Lady Russell's interest that Cowper was appointed a King's counsel at a very early age, and the difficulties raised to his promotion by the Commissioners of the Great Seal, removed by her applications to Lord Halifax, and Pollexfen, Attorney-General.

encouragement for young gentlemen to serve the King in that difficult profession, and consequently is most proper for such, and is likely to induce such to qualify themselves to serve their King and country with more honour and integrity than persons whose first steps and advances in the world teach them shifting. But to lay our partiality aside, I think we may say, that it is hard to guess, after the King has given the place to Mr. Cowper, under the notion of its being irregular in respect of his age, what worse representations the Commissioners can have made of him to the King, except they have mistaken the matter of fact, and told His Majesty that a man of twenty-four is under age; an age His Majesty has found is not incapable of great actions.

It must be some strange inconveniency attending this grant, they have pressed, that could move the King to determine his pleasure so soon to one that yet has not been capable of offending in that station; and every day mends the fault he took it in with. Sure this is a matter below the envy of the Lords Commissioners; and what other reasons they can have in suppressing him, we think it not proper to inquire into. Mr. Cowper says, that if the testimony of able and worthy men of the same profession to the contrary of their suggestions will remove the obstructions they have laid to His Majesty's grace, he is able to produce them, though men of the same profession are naturally not very forward in those offices.

1689. The readiness your Lordship has expressed to undertake this matter, first in compliment to Lady Shaftesbury and myself, and since to the family, makes it unnecessary to urge zeal. I deliver mine with submission to your judgment, that advantages everything it undertakes.

Your Lordship's, &c.

LADY RUSSELL TO SIR H. POLLEXFEN,¹ ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

WHAT I offer in this paper to Mr. Attorney-General, I should with a better will do personally, if I were not very sure it would be very much more a trouble to you to tell you in your chamber my true joy for the eminent station you are in, and that the reason you are so is because you are worthy of it; which will, I hope, be the prevailing rule in this our new world; though I must think there has been a failure already in the person of one about you, who offered some discourse to me when I was last with you. I have done all you desired of me then; and as I have practised silence under long sufferings I can do so in any case: the day of consolation I wait for, is not to be met with in this lower world.

¹ He had been counsel for the Earl of Danby, and for the City of London in behalf of their charter. He was knighted, and made a Serjeant in April, 1689; appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in May of the same year, and died in 1692. Burnet calls him, "An honest and learned, but perplexed lawyer."

But now, Sir, before I release you, earnestly intreat 1689. your good-will on the behalf of Sir William Cowper's son, whom I did name to you, and also the request his friends desired to make for him, which was to be made one of the King's Council. It is very true you did not approve the thing, though you spoke well of the man; but your exceptions seemed to me to be especially in regard to young gentlemen; that it was not advisable, proving for the most part a ruin to them. His friends persisting in their desire, taking assurance from his temper he would do well, Lady Shaftesbury and myself so engaged in it, that, by the means of Lord Halifax, we obtained the King's promise; and Mr. Cowper kissed the King's hand for it. Lord Shrewsbury gave the warrant, and now it stops at the Commissioners of the Great Seal; and, as they tell me, because Mr. Attorney is not contented at it. I am sorry if it is so; and if the business had not proceeded so very far, I would not urge it. But the reflection will be very heavy upon Mr. Cowper, and not easy to my Lady Shaftesbury and myself; as for a favour to us, the King expressed he did it, and after some difficulty at the irregularity of it.

Pray consider, Mr. Attorney, all dispensing powers are not unlawful. I undertake very few things, and therefore do very little good to people; but I do not love to be baulked, when I thought my end compassed; and though you would not promote us in it, I hope you will not destroy us.

1689. Let me know, if you please, how it stands, and if you can be inexorable to the earnest solicitudes of a mother, who I must bring to you, I know not what to say more, but that I am sorry they were ever made to hope for it; Lady Shaftesbury and I being,
- Yours, &c.
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LADY RUSSELL TO LADY ESSEX.¹

BEING I read your Ladyship's obliging, and so very moving letter, on Sunday, I must say why I have not waited on you since; it is because I was then engaged both the next days to be out of town; yet on both of them I endeavoured the same performance I am now about, but still broke off by slight but unavoidable interruption less acceptable than usual, since it might hazard my seeming to receive your Ladyship's kindness and your orders with less cordial respect than I do, and ever will do. If any labour I could take might be of the meanest service to you, I assure you, Madam, you should feel the effects of my good will. But, alas! I am not qualified, nor have opportunity to do what I should find content in doing, as most certainly I should, if in the least degree I could help to soften those thoughts, which by so long and so constant a fretting on a tender body, consumes you with grief. I do feelingly mourn with you at the new embitter-

¹ Elizabeth, widow of Arthur, first Earl of Essex, daughter of Algernon Percy, tenth Earl of Northumberland.

tering of that cup you have so deeply drank out of 1689.
'already. But, Madam, be careful you do not aggravate circumstances to your own wrong. That melancholy which has so long possessed your soul, is apt, I believe, to turn the darkest side towards you; and a sore not skinned is soon made to smart, nay to shrink, when anything comes near to it, as if it were touched, though really it is not. This perhaps may be your case at present. Rest your thoughts in your own innocence, Madam; nothing that is worthy can slander you in their most secret thoughts, much less Sir H. C. who is abroad, also most secure in his own merit. All those intimated in your letter, are perfectly new to me; and I must consent to say the same thing your Ladyship does of them.

In what I can serve the just end you aim at, I will be very diligent. And I beseech God one day to speak peace to our afflicted minds, and let us not be disappointed of our great hope. But we must wait for our day of consolation till this world passes away; an unkind and trustless world it has been to us. Why it has been such, God knows best; all his dispensations serve the end of his providences; and they are ever beautiful, and must be good, and good to every one of us; and even these dismal ones are to us, if we can bear evidence to our own souls, that we are better for our afflictions; which God often makes them to be, who suffer wrongfully. We may reasonably believe our

1689. friends find that rest we yet but hope for; and what better comfort can your Ladyship or I desire in this valley of the shadow of death we are walking through! The rougher our path is, the more delightful and ravishing will the great change be to us.

Wednesday, March 19, 1688-9.

LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF STRAFFORD.

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's of the 2nd of April puts me under very great obligations of a perpetual acknowledgment both of your kind acceptance of my disposition to serve you, in the whole progress of this treaty, and the justice I find from your Lordship, when you consider my part in it. My Lord, if my letter of the 26th March fixes your Lordship's doubts to more certainty, that this matter at last must fall, I am sorry it is my lot to speak the most displeasing to your Lordship on a subject your Lordship has taken so deep and so obliging impressions of it into your mind, and with so much constancy and generosity pursued, to the eternal engagements of all honourable and most respectful acknowledgments from a family whose sentiments must be mine: consequently I must always be your Lordship's humble servant; and as such, as much as in a just pursuance of a principle I would never

depart from, if I speak at all I must speak clearly, 1689. and not doubtfully, if I apprehend no doubt remains; and, indeed, my Lord, by all the judgment I can make here, it is so in this case, yet without abating any part of that perfect esteem and honour my Lord of Bedford has established in his heart and thoughts of your Lordship; but the bad state of Ireland¹ does so affect him that he is satisfied he should give his daughter, whether she was so or not, a just cause to complain he did not consider her whole interest, if he should provide her no better provision of fortune than your Lordship's present circumstances can make for her. However, I wish your Lordship a true prophet, that a few months may recover Ireland; and I do very particularly for your Lordship's share in it, as a person that is with great respect.

Your Lordship's most faithful humble servant.

April 20, 1689.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

By your last letter, wrote some day in Passion-week, I find where you were then; yet having heard nothing of you since, it gives me some doubts where you are now, being I apprehend Lady Gainsborough might be solicitous to see so faithful and so useful a friend, especially in this time of her need,

¹ King James's invasion.

1689. and if she does, I never make a doubt of your gratifying her.

I cannot tell you I have taken any notice of that part of your last letter which concerns Lord Bedford, and the Cambridgeshire clergy; for really and truly, unless I made it a business to do it (which you did not seem to require), I have had no time; the Parliament-hours are so extravagant, that I see him little. He has with him now a concerned lady in the privileges of your country, Lady Alington; but though she is in London she would not walk yesterday, which I do not commend her for: I am not sure what you may do; I had no sister there yesterday. You hear all the new honours, I suppose; not many new creations, but all are stepping higher; as Lord Winchester¹ is Duke of Bolton; Lord Montague an Earl² called still Montagu; Falconbridge³ an Earl, called the same; Mordaunt⁴ Earl of Monmouth; Churchill⁵ an Earl; Lord Lumley⁶ made Viscount; Bentinck⁷ is an Earl;

¹ Charles Paulet, sixth Marquis of Winchester, created in 1689 Duke of Bolton.

² Ralph, third Lord Montagu, on the accession of William and Mary created Viscount, and by Queen Anne in 1705 Duke of Montagu.

³ Thomas Bellasyse, second Viscount Fauconberg, created an Earl.

⁴ Charles Mordaunt, who afterwards succeeded his uncle Henry, as Earl of Peterborough.

⁵ John Churchill, Earl, afterwards Duke of Marlborough.

⁶ Richard Lumley, afterwards first Earl of Scarborough. He secured Newcastle for King William, to whom he was otherwise very serviceable.

⁷ William Bentinck, Earl, afterwards first Duke of Portland.

Sidney¹ a Viscount. Those that saw this and the 1689. last coronation, tell me this was much finer and in better order; and if the number of the ladies were fewer, yet their attendance was with more application near the Queen all the time, and with more cheerful faces by a great deal. By what is heard from Scotland, they mean to take the example from England. The last reports from Ireland say, that King James was moving with his army towards the North. And yesterday Lord Burlington said, Colerain, a great town, was besieged by 6000 men, but that Lord Blaine² had sallied out, and so behaved himself that they had raised the siege. D'Avaux,³ who

¹ Henry Sydney, Esq., younger son of Robert Earl of Leicester, created Viscount Sydney, and in 1694 Earl of Romney.

² Henry Vincent, the fifth Lord Blayney. A strong supporter of King William, in whose behalf he raised a considerable force to oppose King James when he invaded Ireland. He seized Armagh, and caused King William and Queen Mary to be proclaimed there. He resented the offers of King James to embrace his service, and is said to have returned the following answer, "That he now had, he thanked God, a King upon whose word he could depend, but never would on his without his sword in his hand."

³ "The Count d'Avaux was one of the plenipotentiaries at Nimeguen, where, like a true courtier as he was, he attached himself to Croissy, his colleague, the brother of Colbert. Sometime after the peace of Nimeguen D'Avaux was Ambassador in Holland. The name he bore was of great use to him in the situation he filled, and persuaded him that he was as capable of filling it as his maternal uncle." It must, however, be allowed that he was possessed of talents of address, of the art of insinuation, of good temper, and that, in fact, he was as able a man as his uncle. He was always well informed upon all political matters. He acquired the friendship and the consideration of the people of Holland to a very

* Claude de Meames, Count d'Avaux.

1689. was the French Ambassador in Holland, would not speak in council, till all the Protestants were put out; so they were, and, as they say, afterwards discharged all together, as the Lord Grenard, &c. I am called away, and it is too late to defer sending this from

Your constant friend and servant.

April 12, 1689.

The mother Lady Aylesbury is dead very suddenly.

DR. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

I RECEIVED, good Madam, by yours of the 11th, a further testimony of that kindness of which I had abundant proof and full conviction before, and of your readiness to employ your interest to procure that for me which I requested some three months since. I made that petition then, in prospect of what is now come upon us, and in hope, that having obtained previous leave to go abroad before the oaths had been pressed, I should not have been immediately compelled to return back to take them. What now I shall do in this present emergency I am irresolved; but if having first debated it with myself, and advised with my friends,

singular degree."—St. Simon. Two of his Letters on the report that King William was about to invade England are printed in the Ellis Correspondence, vol. ii. p. 176.

it shall seem most expedient to make such a retreat, 1689. I will depend upon your honour's mediation for that favour.

I have a project, which, if feasible, would please me more than anything in the world, and by such an interest as yours may be in this Court, upon the merits of your Lord's sufferings, and the actings of his family, I should not question it might be obtained for one so unworthy of any ray of grace as myself. But if the thing be set on foot, it must be with great caution and secrecy, till I am secure of the King's promise for it; and therefore I cannot tell whether you had best acquaint the prelate mentioned in your last with it, unless you have more confidence in him, that he will entirely serve you, than I can that he will descend to make himself an instrument to serve me. It is to get a person presented to my living, upon my resignation, by the Crown, in whom I may confide, without any the least capitulation direct or indirect beforehand. He whom I design, is one Mr. Jekyl,¹ Minister of the New Chapel, Westminster, a very good man, and a favourite enough of the government. I could do this now another way before the first of August: but that I would take a longer time to consider, and did not I withal apprehend that the Bishop of Ely,² who is the original patron

¹ Most probably Thomas Jekyl, D.D., preacher of the New Church, Westminster, and Vicar of Rowel, Wilts, author of several printed sermons.

² Francis Turner, Bishop of Ely, translated from Rochester in 1664—

1689. of it, would scruple to administer the oath to any upon institution, while he is unsatisfied about taking them himself. I cannot tell what my dear friend the Bishop of Bath and Wells¹ may do in this case. I find him, by a letter to me, and another I saw in the hands of a person of honour of your sex, to be fluctuating; but if the consideration of the church's peace should, without a full persuasion of the lawfulness of the matter of the oath of allegiance, and of the authority which imposeth it, induce him to take it, neither his example nor advice, though I have used him as a spiritual guide, should steer me in this point; for I could never hear that doctrine of the Roman casuists defended to a probability, that a good intention, or a holy end, could sanctify actions in order to that end, which were dubious and questionable in themselves.

It may be I have as sad thoughts for the divisions of the church, and as ardent desires for its peace as any; and let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I prefer not Jerusalem before my chief joy. But I cannot esteem it a good way to seek

one of the seven bishops sent to the Tower; but he refused to take the oaths to William and Mary. Burnet says he was concerned in a plot to restore the banished King. He died in 1700.

¹ The excellent Bishop Ken was a particular friend of the Bishop of Ely: their intimacy commencing in their schoolboy days at Winchester. He refused to take the oath on King William's accession, but found a happy retreat in the house of Lord Weymouth at Longleat. The life of this amiable prelate has engaged the pens of two eminent writers, the late Mr. Bowles, and more recently that of Mr. Anderson.

the attainment of this, by any act which shall disturb my own peace; and yet this I must of necessity do, if I make use of such means as may be conducive to that end, when I am not first convinced of the justice of them. I did not doubt but the Deans of some of the greatest name in the city would take the oaths, nor do I suspect but they will proceed to the doing so upon grounds which seem in their own judgment very solid. And yet I ought not to act or defend what I do by the example of others. This is like clearing one's self by reckoning up the faults of others: as St. Hierome writing to Celantia observes: but, however, as he proceeds, it argues a lightness and vanity of mind, for a man to leave his own conscience to follow the opinion of others. It may be their judgment, that at least, in such a case as ours was, the people have power to alter the succession; and that the convention was a full representative of them.

I sucked in other more monarchical principles with the first knowledge I had, from the breasts of my mother the University, and then, and ever since took them, as far I could understand, to be more agreeable to our frame of constitution of government. Or they may look on this revolution as a tacit and virtual conquest. I wish it had been owned to be such; for then I had known from the resolutions of civilians and casuists, and my own reason, what to have done without difficulty. In

1689. the meantime I intreat you, very good Madam, not to call boggling at an oath, clashing against another, as far as I can discern, which I formerly took, an unnecessary scruple. I believe, were you under such an engagement, your tenderness and circumspection would be rather greater than mine.

The former oath of allegiance runs thus: "I will bear *faith and true allegiance* to His Majesty King Charles, or King James, *and his heirs and successor, and Him and Them* will defend." Of supremacy, "I will bear *faith and true allegiance* to the King's Highness (Charles or James) *his heirs and lawful successors*, and to my power shall assist and defend all jurisdictions, privileges, pre-eminences, and authorities granted or belonging to the King's Highness, his heirs and successors, or united and annexed to the imperial crown of this realm."

Now I am informed by the statute 1 Jac. c. 1, that lineal succession is a privilege belonging to the Imperial Crown, and by 12 Car. 2, c. 30, s. 7, that by the undoubted and fundamental laws of this kingdom, neither the Peers of this realm, nor the Commons, nor both together, in Parliament, or out of parliament, nor the people collectively, nor representatively, nor any persons whatsoever, hath, or ought to have any coercive power over the kings of this realm.

The present oath runs thus, "I will bear true allegiance to their Majesties King William and Queen Mary." Now let any impartial person

resolve me, whether one of these, King James 1689. having abdicated, be his heir, or lawful successor, or could be made so, had the people met either collectively or representatively, which they did neither.¹

In the meantime I protest to your Ladyship, upon the truth of a Christian and a priest, that divesting myself of all prejudices, and, as far as it is possible, of all passions which darken the light of the judgment, I will examine the matter to the bottom, and if I find I can take the oath, I will. But if I find I cannot, without declaring, or an admission of such a declaration, that I never intend nor will be thought by construction or implication by such swearing, to recognise the legal title of King William and Queen Mary, I then beg of your honour these three things.

1. That you would have the same good opinion of my integrity, and of my zealous addiction to you, or to anything relating to your service, as ever you had heretofore.

2. That you would permit me, in entire trust and confidence, to make over all my worldly goods to you: for I fear that some men's heats may drive affairs so far, as to bring all recusants of it into a præmunire.

¹ In Burnet will be found an account of the debates on this subject, in which he took a large share, when an attempt was made without success to vary it in behalf of the clergy."—Vol. iv. p. 14. Ox. 1833.

1689. 3. That I may have some room in your house, if any can be spared, to set up my books in, and have recourse to them, if, on refusal, we may be permitted to stay in the town.

The first petition I with more earnestness would press upon you, your sister the Lady Montagu, and all other friends, than the rest, because I look upon it as the worst sort of martyrdom, to suffer in the opinion of friends I have extremely loved and honoured, either as indiscreet or factious.

But yet, if such a martyrdom cannot be avoided, I will endeavour to sustain it with patience and courage.

Mrs. Alington, for whom I have always had a tender regard from her childhood, sensibly wounded me when she called this standing out of the Bishops factious.

As to the second, if you shall see fit to decline it, I will apply with the same request to my very honoured friend the Lady Gainsborough.

The third is with supposition only, that such a concession may not bring any great inconvenience upon your house.

I hope your honour will excuse the mean accommodation mine at Windsor Castle could yield you, and the meaner it may be because I could not be there to direct. I wrote twice that Dr. Scot might spare you a room, and if it had come into my head earlier than to-day, I am sure the Dean of Winchester would, upon my writing, have spared you

any in Dr. Fulham's house, which is in his com-1689.
mand.

I entreat your honour to present my very humble
respect and service to the Lord Russell, Lady
Cavendish, Madam Catherine. I commend you
and them to God's protection, and continue, as I
shall by your permission, ever, Madam,

Your honour's most truly and

Humble devoted servant,

J. FITZWILLIAM.

May 13, 1689.

END OF VOL. I.

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